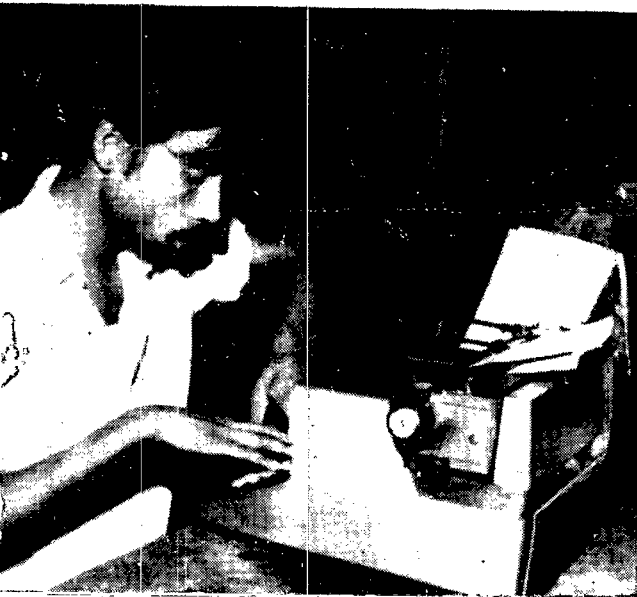


FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED.



yojana

PRICE THREE RUPEES



Salute to the Spirit of

Man

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

"THERE should be more widespread recognition amongst likely employers that the disabled can be full members of society. If they cannot tackle one job they are capable of something else and should not be deprived of the opportunity to support themselves. They do not ask for, nor should any thing be done out of charity. It is their right as citizens and it is in the country's interest. Sometimes children and even grown-ups thoughtlessly ridicule the disabled or deformed people. This is cruel and must not be allowed. What is essential is to create public consciousness, not in the sense of pity but compassion which is deeper and which leads to positive action. I feel strongly that this awareness and concern should be created from the earliest stages of education and our children should be taught about health education, road sense, cleanliness and other preventive actions and these should form a part of our textbooks.

"Voluntary organisations can help a great deal in bringing about such a psychological change in society. I hope that the International Year of Disabled Persons will be used as a year when Government, voluntary agencies and individuals will work jointly to transform the outlook of the general public and to inculcate in disabled people themselves hope, courage and determination to succeed.

"This year for the disabled is really a salute to



the indomitable spirit of man. It is one of the miracles of nature how handicapped people develop other senses and can do all manners of work with or even without training.

"May the International Year of the Disabled Persons be the harbinger of new opportunities for these brave people, and may we also have the will and inculcate it in those who do not have the desire to help them and to build up the institutions, give them the equipment and the training which is their due."

Handicapped require Compassion

"THE handicapped do not need people's pity. What they require is compassion. Pity is a momentary feeling unlike compassion, which moves a person's heart and ensures that he stays back and helps the less privileged". This was stated by the Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, while inaugurating the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped, Bombay, on 18th April, 1981. India, she said, had a long tradition of reverence for life which was born out of compassion. Gautam Buddha, Lord Mahavira, Emperor Ashoka had all followed this tradition. "When we show compassion towards the less fortunate, we are actually helping ourselves since it enables us to realise the wholeness of human personality," she said.

Smt. Gandhi admitted that over the years there had been a slow shift in the people's attitude towards the handicapped. The educational and other institutions, she said, could further help in reorienting people's attitude towards the handicapped. The task becomes

even more important since everyone of us is handicapped in one way or the other. It is only a question of degree and the level of people's consciousness about the handicapped.

Referring to the heroic battle waged by Helen Keller against her triple handicaps, the Prime Minister said, Helen Keller received no Government help whatsoever and yet she stood her ground stoically. All through her life Helen Keller remained true to her convictions. Smt. Gandhi commended the devotion to duty displayed by those behind the Fellowship for the Physically Handicapped and the tremendous headway they had made in a span of 25 years.

The Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped, Bombay, is rendering yeoman's service to the orthopaedically handicapped, offering them training facilities, guidance and placement opportunities.

The Prime Minister took keen interest in the exhibition of the products made at the Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped arranged as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

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Yojana seeks to carry the message of the Plan but is not restricted to expressing the official point of view.

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The Year of the Disabled

FOLLOWING the Years of women and children, the United Nations Organisation declared 1981 as the "International Year of Disabled Persons", with the theme of "Full Participation and Equality". The aim of the world body in observing such 'Years' is to focus the attention of peoples and governments on the weaker segments of mankind and to ameliorate their condition.

According to the estimate of the UN, about one-tenth of humanity is disabled. On this basis, the number of the handicapped in India may be about 6.85 crores. The provisional results of 1981 Census put the number of "totally" disabled as 10.9 lakhs. We may get a more exact estimate of totally and partially handicapped persons of all kinds after the National Sample Survey which is presently under way. Anyhow, the number of disabled persons is formidable and it would require herculean efforts even to slightly improve their lot, not to speak of ensuring their "full participation and equality."

Even before Independence there were a few institutions in different parts of the country, established both by the government and philanthropic organisations, for serving the physically and mentally handicapped persons. But the number of such institutions increased and their activities expanded only after the planned development of the country was undertaken. However, considering the number of the disabled persons, especially in the far-flung rural areas, all the facilities available at present are woefully inadequate. Even in the past eight months, the awareness roused by the IYDP has not yielded much in terms of concrete action. In fact, an advertisement, recently released by the Ministry of Social Welfare, admits that we have "miles to go" in this direction. The reports sent in response to our request by some of the Central Ministries, State Governments, Social Welfare Boards and Public Sector Undertakings, show that the facilities so far provided for the disabled are mostly symbolic and cannot make any significant dent in the problem. It is, however, hoped that this welfare work will gather momentum in the succeeding months and years. So far as the organised private sector is concerned, even symbolic action in favour of the handicapped is not noticeable.

As the first step towards getting a new deal, the disabled persons should form a national organisation of their own. Even in an advanced country like the U.S.A. the handicapped got better facilities only after organised and peaceful agitation. In countries like Sweden the representatives of the association of the handicapped are consulted before any scheme relating to their welfare is launched. Another basic requirement is the collection and compilation of complete data on the handicapped in the country. A detailed nationwide survey should be made later, in addition to the sample survey. A basic law concerning the handicapped should also be enacted. Similarly, a long-range national policy and action plan should be evolved.

(Contd. on Page 8)

Better Deal for the Disabled in India



S. B. Chavan*

THE programmes for the welfare of the handicapped have been there even before Independence but it is only after Independence that a number of initiatives have been taken in this area of work. Welfare of the handicapped has been a part of India's Five Year Plans and from one Plan to another this area has been given an enhanced outlay. An overview of the many programmes shows that sound ground work for developing a network of rehabilitation services has already been made. During the International Year of Disabled Persons this network is being strengthened, augmented and expanded. Let us have a look at the programmes which are under way or are in the process of being launched.

A perennial problem plaguing works for the disabled has been the virtual absence of dependable data concerning size and socio-economic characteristics of the disabled in our country. There have been general assessments by United Nations and other agencies but these are not adequate for launching a planned programme of services. India is probably the first country which launched in 1981, census enumeration of three categories of disabled persons, namely, totally blind, totally crippled and totally dumb. Provisional results of this enumeration are available and it shows that there are 4.78 lakhs totally blind, 3.36 lakhs totally crippled and 2.76 lakhs totally dumb persons in the country (excluding Assam). Of course this does not give a complete picture. In order to have more detailed information about the handicapped, the National Sample Survey Organisation has undertaken a sample survey operation on 1st July. This survey is being done on the basis of a fairly large representative samples. Information is being collected regarding locomotive disability, visual disability, communication disability and mental retardation. The questions that are being asked are aimed at providing information regarding the kind of disability, the degree of disability, its causes, kind of treatment taken, types of aids and appliances being used, educational and training status of the individual, economic status of the family etc.

This survey will help in identifying the magnitude of the problem. Further measures in the area can be planned, keeping in view the data of these surveys.

Aids and Appliances

A major scheme launched during the International Year of Disabled Persons by the Ministry of Social Welfare is the scheme for supply of aids and appliances to disabled persons. During March 1981 itself a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs was distributed to 25 institutions all over India, which have been recognised as centres for delivery of aids and appliances under this scheme. More centres will be recognised during the current year. Under this scheme a person with income upto Rs. 750 p.m. will get aid and appliances free of cost and a person above Rs. 750 to Rs. 1500 will get an aid upto 50 per cent. An aid costing between Rs. 25 and Rs. 1500 is given under this scheme. In order to facilitate a handicapped person to come to a recognised centre and get the aid and appliances, we are also giving the fitting charges, travel expense, the cost of boarding and lodging and, in cases where it is necessary for an escort to accompany a handicapped person, travel, boarding and lodging cost of the escort will also be given by the recognized centre financed by the Ministry of Social Welfare under this scheme.

Integrated Education

A scheme of integrated education for the disabled has been in operation since 1974. The scheme is implemented through the State Governments with assistance from the Government of India. This scheme has since been drastically revised on the basis of the experience gained and made much more broad-based. Under the revised scheme of integrated education, the Central Government will meet 100 per cent cost of this scheme as against 50 per cent by the Central Government under the earlier pattern. The aim of the scheme is to integrate the education of the disabled child in the normal school system.

Experimental programmes of placing handicapped children in ordinary schools have established the value of intermingling handicapped and non-handicapped

*Union Minister of Education and Social Welfare.

children in the school setting. Close interaction in the impressionable years promotes mental understanding and appreciation of the assets and liabilities both of handicapped and non-handicapped children. Another distinct advantage is that the child remains with his family and is saved from the sorrow of separation in staying in a hostel attached to special school away from his family and familiar community environment. Thus, integration is one of the most important programmes with Government of India. This scheme will also enable the spread of educational facilities for the disabled in the rural areas. It is hoped that with the revised pattern of assistance and with liberal incentives, the scheme will gain momentum in the years to come.

Integration of the disabled with every facet of our national life is doubtless a worthwhile goal. Yet for the severely disabled we shall have to continue the special schools and institutions. The Ministry of Social Welfare is giving assistance to voluntary organisations for establishment of institutions for the education, training and rehabilitation of these disabled persons. Such special schools will continue to be funded under this scheme.

Aid to Voluntary Bodies

The care of the disabled is gigantic in magnitude and poses problems which need individual attention. Such a variety of problems cannot be solved merely by Governmental action. Therefore, it is necessary to involve voluntary organisations to arrange services for the disabled. My Ministry has a scheme under which assistance is given to voluntary organisations for taking up projects for the education, training and rehabilitation of disabled persons. Under the scheme 90 per cent of the estimated cost is funded by the Ministry. During 1980-81, a sum of Rs. 1.12 crores was given to 114 organisations under this scheme.

This scheme is now being taken up for revision in the light of experience gained so that more comprehensive projects in the entire field of services for the disabled can be covered. The idea is that organisations which want to take up projects for prevention and early detection of and early intervention in cases of disabilities may also be brought under this scheme.

Research

Another scheme which aims at promoting education of the disabled is the scheme of scholarships. Annually a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs is given to disabled students as scholarships by the Central Government. Scholarships are available under the schemes of State Government and Central Government from Class I to post-graduate level. Engineering, medical and other professional courses are also covered under this scheme. Apart from giving stipends to in-plant trainees, the scheme also provides readers' allowance to the blind and prosthetic allowances to the orthopaedically handicapped students to increase their mobility. During 1980-81 a sum of Rs. 61 lakhs was disbursed as scholarships to about 9,500 scholars.

Research in development is essential for the proper training, education and to keep abreast of changing trends in rehabilitation of the disabled. For this purpose four National Institutes have been planned. The National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun and National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, have already been set up. These institutions are promoting innovative research in the fields of education, training and rehabilitation of the disabled.

As we look around we cannot help the feeling of being surrounded by a mesh of technological innovation—in the home, in the factory, in the office and, in fact, everywhere. Rehabilitation of the disabled is no exception to these technological advances. A good many physical limitations can be overcome by application of technology. The Government of India already have an artificial limb manufacturing corporation in Kanpur which produces aids for the disabled persons. The National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, manufactures appliances for the blind. The other institutes being developed will also manufacture aids/appliances for the hearing handicapped and will prepare psychological aids for the mentally retarded.

Economic Rehabilitation

Another important area where Government is augmenting its efforts is the economic rehabilitation of disabled persons. The Central and State Governments have made reservation in the Government service and in public service of 3 per cent of the posts in categories C and D. Jobs suitable for the disabled persons have been identified. The Government of India have also issued instructions to ensure that jobs reserved for disabled go to them by making a 100 point roster where specific points have been reserved for the disabled. Every 34th post goes to the blind, every 67th post goes to orthopaedically handicapped and every 100th post goes to the hearing handicapped. In addition, age relaxation of 10 years and relaxation of educational standard have been provided for recruitment to the jobs reserved for disabled.

Efforts are made to get jobs for the disabled through 10 special employment exchanges in the country as well as vocational rehabilitation centres. The employment exchanges, have provided since their inception placement to 22,499 disabled persons as on 31st December, 1980. The number on the live registers on these 20 exchanges is 27,108. Efforts are being made to speed up the securing of jobs for the handicapped by giving voluntary organisations the services of a placement officer to help in the placement of the handicapped in private industry also.

There are 11 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres which provide training and also help in the placement of disabled persons. Centres are at Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Ludhiana, Kanpur, Bangalore, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Jabalpur and Trivandrum. The Centres have already evaluated 35,284 handicapped and have rehabilitated 8,531 handicapped persons. Two more Vocational Rehabilitation Centres are being set up this year. Besides, scheme has been enlarged in its scope by the inclusion of a rural component. Attached to the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres at Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Ludhiana and Kanpur 11 rehabilitation extension centres located in rural blocks have been sanctioned this year. The rural rehabilitation centres will help in the evaluation and training to the rural disabled and try to find placement for them in the rural setting itself.

Another strategy adopted by the Government is encouraging self-employment among the handicapped persons. Various facilities are given for this purpose. The Ministry of Petroleum has reserved 15 per cent of petrol pump outlets and gas agencies for the disabled and for this purpose a roster has been prescribed.

ed to ensure that the disabled persons make use of those reservations. A sum of Rs. 5,000 as term loan and Rs. 1500 as working loan is available to disabled persons in low income brackets from the banks at a nominal rate of interest, which is 4 per cent at present. To encourage employment by the private industry, the Government of India has given weighted deduction to the extent of 133 per cent of the salaries paid to the disabled persons, for income tax purposes.

To oversee the implementation of these programmes and to review them from time to time, especially during International Year of the Disabled Persons, my Ministry has set up a National Committee on IYDP under my Chairmanship. Apart from this, my Ministry has undertaken meetings with experts of various groups, experts in the fields of visually handicapped, hearing handicapped, orthopaedically handicapped and mentally retarded. The suggestions given by these experts will be taken into consideration while formulating new and comprehensive plans and programmes for the disabled.

Preventive Measures

Just as the fruits of planning can lead to prosperity only when we effectively carry out the family welfare programme so will the rehabilitation services be effective only to the degree to which we implement preventive measures. The Government of India has already launched massive programmes for the prevention of blindness, leprosy and polio. These programmes

are being strengthened and will be augmented further in the following years. In addition, the Government of India is extending the programme of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and it is hoped that by the end of the Sixth Plan the number of projects under ICDS will be 600. The Package of programmes given under ICDS, which includes nutritional intervention and immunisation, helps in the prevention of disabilities since the number of disabilities increased due to nutritional deficiencies and lack of immunisation facilities.

The magnitude and diversity of the problems of the disabled persons is so staggering that time, effort and money are all needed in a large measure to reach a significant percentage of the target population. In fact, this is not just true of India but even of the most affluent nations. Yet within the resources available the foundation for the rehabilitation of the disabled has been laid and we are steadily moving towards a better day for the disabled. I am sure that the rising crescendo of awareness being aroused during International Year of Disabled Persons, will not go in vain.

One year in itself cannot solve all the problems. The International Year of the Disabled Persons will be gone but the disabled people will be with us. The IYDP is being used as a platform to launch new programmes and to augment the existing ones so as to give a comprehensive package of services to the disabled persons in the years to come. □

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Welfare of the Disabled in India

Sushila Rohtagi*

THAT the disabled are human beings, with tremendous potential to contribute their mite to society and that just because they are disabled, they do not forfeit their right to enjoy life in full measure is the realization that has at last dawned upon the world community. The declaration of 1981 as the International Year for Disabled Persons (IYDP in short) is symbolic of this realisation. The disabled would not take lying down any more their being segregated as a group, to be pitied, to be looked down upon and to be given doles throughout their life. They would like to join the mainstream of life as equal members in a society that cannot any more wilfully ignore the rights and privileges of a mass of humanity merely because of their physical limitations. Today, there are about 400 million people in the world who suffer from some form of disability or the other. The problem is a growing one with a number of factors contributing to the incidence of disability. In India, the exact number of disabled will be known when the census count taken early this year reveals the exact data on the incidence of handicaps in different families. Even if we accept the UN estimate that ten per cent of the population of any given country comprises the handicapped, the figure would rise to a staggering 68.5 million.

The problem is gigantic in proportions and both the Government and the voluntary agencies have to work shoulder to shoulder to restore the right of the disabled. Before coming to the various programmes laid down under the National Plan of Action under IYDP we may mention here the multi-faceted programmes we have formulated in different fields of education, training, employment, etc., for the different categories of the handicapped.

Glorious Tradition

India has a glorious tradition of voluntary work for the handicapped. Just as in the rest of the world it was during the second World War, the Government took keen interest in the welfare of the handicapped. In 1941, the Central Advisory Board of Education appointed a Committee to develop a braille code in Indian languages. In 1942, a Joint Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education and Health was appointed to examine the

cause of blindness and recommended the measures for the education and rehabilitation of the blind. To implement the major recommendations of this Committee, the Ministry of Education in 1947, set up a small unit. The functions of the unit were later expanded to include the problems of other handicapped groups like the deaf, the orthopaedically handicapped and the mentally retarded.

The Constitution of free India has provided through Article 41 of the Directive Principles that the State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provisions for securing the right to work, education and public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disability, and in other cases of undeserved want. India is said to have the largest number of blind persons in the world. According to a survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research a few years ago the number of blind in the country was estimated to be around 8 million. A study conducted a few years ago had estimated the population of the deaf to be 2 million, the orthopaedically handicapped to be 4.2 million and the mentally retarded 3 to 4 million. The number of institutions to serve all the groups of handicapped in the country are just few hundred and majority of these institutions are run by voluntary organisations. This would show that the availability of services is woefully inadequate for such a vast number of handicapped.

Present Facilities

The various institutions, both Government and private, provide a wide range of services which include medical care, covering diagnosis, surgical treatment, provision of prosthetic and orthotic appliances and psychotherapy. The institutions also provide education, vocational training and sometimes prevocational training. They also arrange for their placement through the employment exchanges in open industry and sheltered employment.

Over the years the Government of India has extended several benefits for the disabled such as reservation of 3 per cent of posts of Class C & D in Government offices and public sector undertakings, scholarships, artificial aids, loans from banks for self-employment. There are 18 special employment exchanges functioning throughout the country for the physically handicapped. In the Sixth Five Year Plan out of Rs. 150

*Chairman, Central Social Welfare Board.

crores earmarked for social welfare, Rs. 24.40 crores would be spent for the welfare of the disabled. In the field of education, there are several schools functioning for different categories of handicapped being run either in the Government or voluntary sector. It is now increasingly being realised that keeping the handicapped children in special residential schools may deprive them of the warmth of parental affection and the opportunity of mingling with other able-bodied children. In tune with the theme of the IYDP, i.e. "Full Participation and Equality", it is now proposed to promote integrated education, a concept that the disabled children can attend normal schools. In such schools, they would, however, be guided by special support through trained teachers and special equipments and materials. A beginning in this direction has already been made several years ago by the National Association for the Blind, Bombay, which is running this scheme successfully in Bombay and in a few other cities. Delhi has also started an experiment in one of its schools to promote the education of deaf children with normal children. In fact, a Perspective Plan has already been drawn up by the Government of India to bring half a million handicapped children to school in the next 20 years.

Eleven Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been established for all categories of physically handicapped by the Government of India. They provide facilities for vocational assessment counselling and guidance to the physically handicapped. These vocational rehabilitation centres also serve as centres for assessment of abilities of the handicapped for the special employment exchanges.

Voluntary Agencies

It is a happy sign that many agencies are now in the fray to extend a helping hand to the disabled who deserve our utmost concern. The Nationalised Banks, for example, are already giving loans at lower rates of interest to the disabled for economic centres. The disabled are also being encouraged to set up cooperatives for the production of goods for the delivery of needed services. It is a great gesture of community participation in voluntary effort for the disabled that in almost every field of activity the

voluntary sector responds to the basic needs of the most neglected section of humanity. For instance, all along we have been having Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Centres only in few big cities like Kanpur and Pune. Quite recently, the Bhagwan Mahaveer Vikalang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur has come up with centre for making artificial limbs for the disabled. Most of these artificial limbs are made locally and are meant for rehabilitating the disabled in rural environment.

The Central Social Welfare Board on its part, has been through its system of grants-in-aid, aiding a number of institutions for the welfare of the handicapped. We have also a major programme—Socio-Economic Programme—which seeks to rehabilitate the handicapped either through self-employment or employment in various production-cum-training centres. During the IYDP benefits of the Dairy Scheme under the Socio-Economic Programme have also been extended to the disabled persons. The Central Social Welfare Board has, through its two magazines—'Social Welfare' and 'Samaj Kalyan' brought about a great awakening and awareness among the public on the problems and potential of the handicapped. In an earlier article in YOJANA early this year I had set forth the various measures taken and proposed to be taken by the Board for the welfare of the disabled. [See 'Yojana', English edition, March 1, 1981 issue—Editor].

It is a happy augury that during the IYDP, the Government have come out with a National Plan of Action. The objectives set forth include programme aimed at the social integration of the handicapped through education and employment. We are also planning a strong National Disability Prevention Programme. On the Prevention side, the Government would intensify the immunization drive and the School Health Service Programme.

The most important pre-requisite for the rehabilitation of the disabled is a change in the public attitude towards the disabled in general. That the disabled could also contribute their resources to the total well-being of the country—in fact, rising higher and better than many normally endowed persons in a number of cases—should be realised by every right-thinking citizen in the country. □

The Year of the Disabled

(continued from page 3)

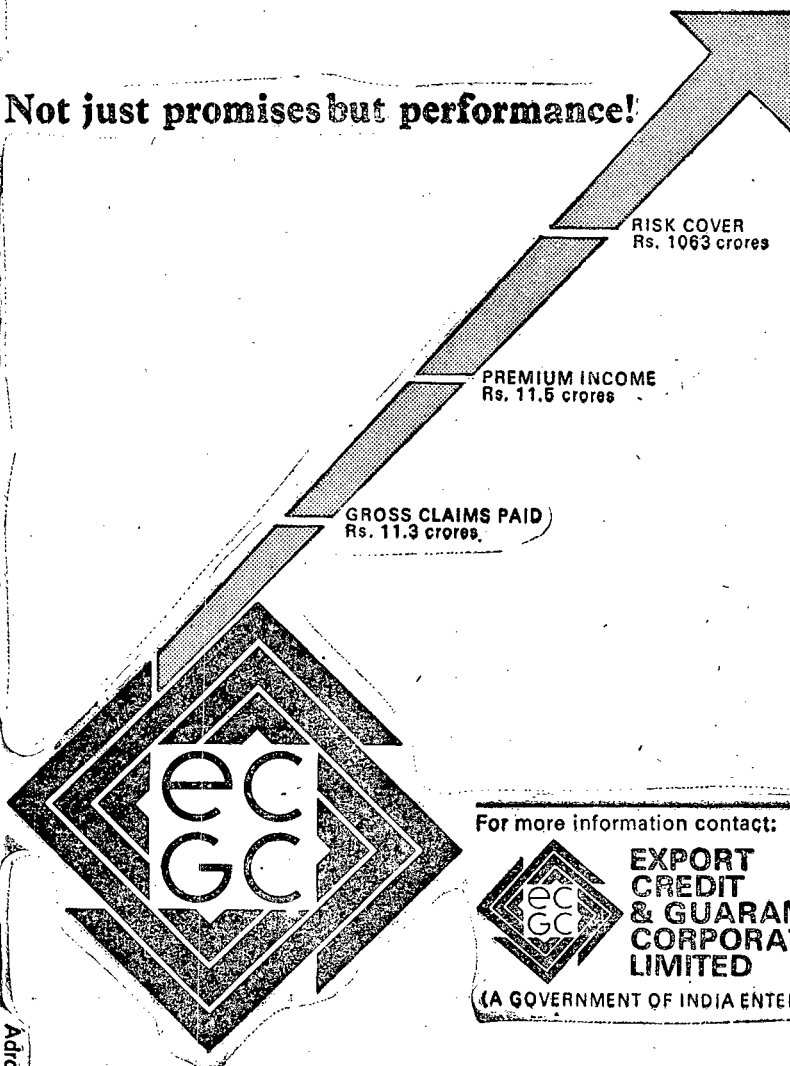
and implemented. In the immediate future, more resources should be allotted for the treatment, training and rehabilitation of the disabled. Modern methods of preventing disability through pre and post-natal care should be widely introduced in the country. The mass media should also play an increasing role in preventing disability caused by traffic, industrial and agricultural (e.g. through threshers) accidents and through ignorance of the need for timely vaccinations. It will also be helpful if the Central and State social welfare departments publish comprehensive handbooks in all the major languages. Regarding employment facilities for the handicapped, the obligatory reservation of vacancies should be extended to the organised private sector also as it has been done in

Japan. What is most important is for the disabled persons not to feel diffident or desparate. It is even more important for the able-bodied and sound-minded people to remember that anybody may become disabled any day, and to help their unfortunate brothers and sisters through contribution in cash, kind and service.

Lastly, a word about this special number of 'Yojana'. It does not seek to present articles of high philosophical or literary value but just to inform the public of the facilities already available in the country and those which are in the offing, and also of the exemplary progress made by some other countries in this humanitarian field. □

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Welfare of the Disabled in the

Five Year Plans

Narayan Datt Tiwari*

Article 41 of the Constitution of India lays down that "the State shall within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want."

ACCURATE statistics on the nature and magnitude of different categories of the disabled in our country are not available. It has been estimated that 10 per cent of the population in most countries, especially developing ones, is handicapped in some form or the other. The Census of 1981 has, for the first time, enumerated three categories of the handicapped namely, totally blind, totally crippled and totally dumb. A National Sample Survey of the disabled has also been sponsored which is likely to give detailed data on all categories of the disabled. However, the widespread incidence of disability in India is quite evident and is of great concern. The most distressing aspect is not only their large size but the fact that a good proportion of the disabilities, especially among the younger age groups, could be prevented through the extension of a range of health care and social services, particularly in rural areas and urban slums. Illiteracy, prolonged social unconcern and prejudices have further compounded the problem.

In the Five Year Plans, the objective has been to develop an all-round programme to prepare as many handicapped persons as possible into relatively active,

self-dependent and productive members of the society. Some of the major programmes being operated by the Central Government are a National Institute each for the visually and orthopaedically handicapped which carry out research, training of personnel and delivery of certain national level services. There is also a Training Centre for the Adult Deaf and a Model School for Mentally Deficient Children. Scholarships are being given to the disabled to enable them to pay for their education from 9th class onwards or to undergo professional technical training. There are four Centres for the training of teachers of the blind. State Governments are being encouraged through financial assistance to introduce 'Integrated Education' for handicapped children in ordinary schools with the help of resources, personnel and requisite aids. In order to stimulate the process of breaking the barriers of prejudices and helping handicapped persons towards better adjustment, national awards are given to outstanding employers of the handicapped and to the most efficient handicapped employees from Government and private sectors, local bodies, public sector undertakings, etc., as well as the self-employed handicapped. Three per cent vacancies have been reserved in Group C and D posts under the Central Government as well as in comparable posts in public sector undertakings.

* Union Minister of Planning and Labour, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

Training and Employment

Although institutions for training and placement of the handicapped have been in existence in India for almost a century, concerted efforts to provide them employment assistance through Government institutions are of recent origin. The Employment Exchanges under the National Employment Service have been handling their placement, but it was only after the setting up of Special Employment Exchanges for the Physically Handicapped, a few years ago, that it has been possible to secure for the disabled satisfying form of employment suited to their capacities. The first Special Employment Exchange was set up at Bombay in 1959. At present there are 21 Special Employment Exchanges for the Physically Handicapped functioning at different places in the country. They follow the selective placement principle in referring and placing the physically handicapped persons in various jobs.

In order to assess the vocational and psychological needs of the physically handicapped persons and also to render assistance in the rehabilitation of such persons, two Vocational Rehabilitation Centres, one each at Bombay and Hyderabad, were set up by the Government of India in June, 1968. Subsequently, nine more Centres have been set up at different State capitals. These Centres also impart adjustment training in real work situations. Efforts are also made to place the physically handicapped clients evaluated at the Centre in suitable jobs including self-employment. In case clients need training, arrangements are made to impart the required short-term training in the Industrial Training Institutes or industry.

Experience of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres has shown the lack of skill training (which is generally found in 80 per cent of the clients who approach the V.R.Cs) is one of the major impediments in their rehabilitation. With a view to bridge the gap between the evaluation and rehabilitation, a Skill Training Workshop has recently been sanctioned for the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Bombay, which is to impart skill training in the selected trades based on the requirements of the local industry.

New Proposals

The United Nations General Assembly in its 32nd Session decided to proclaim the year 1981 as the International Year for the Disabled Persons. India is one of the Member countries which has given its concurrence in this regard. The National Committee on the International Year for the Disabled Persons has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Social Welfare. Many working groups have been set up in pursuance of the decision of the National Committee on the International Year. The working group set up by the Ministry of Labour to draw up concrete and detailed programmes in the area of employment 'Open and Sheltered' has submitted its report to the Government of India which inter-alia suggested opening of more Special Employment Exchanges, their strengthening, opening of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres in each of the remaining States/Union Territories during the Sixth Plan period, adding Skill Training Workshop to each of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres so as to provide job-oriented training, tailored to the needs of the local industries, to the physically handicapped persons, adding Rural Extension Centres

etc. A Task Force was also set up in the Ministry of Labour to consider functioning of the special employment exchanges for the physically handicapped. The report of the Task force has also been submitted to the Government recommending the role to be played by the special employment exchanges in the changed circumstances, particularly in the light of the emphasis laid by the Prime Minister on their speedy rehabilitation.

In the Sixth Plan

During the Sixth Five Year Plan, special emphasis is being laid to intensify the integration of the physically handicapped persons with the main stream of Society. Social Welfare Sector is basically supplemental to the needs of the most deprived and the real benefit to them should come from the general sector. The National Rural Employment Programme and the beneficiary-oriented Integrated Rural Development Programme would contribute substantially in this regard, besides agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation and other economic activities.

Opportunities for integrated education, vocational training and economic rehabilitation would be created in order to integrate the disabled with the main stream of socio-economic life. The scheme of integrated education (which aims at placing the disabled children in ordinary schools with the help of special teachers, aids and resources, special equipment and books, resource and assessment facility) would be revised and expanded so that the varying needs of different types of handicapped children might be met effectively. Designs of buildings may be suitably modified to facilitate mobility of the handicapped along with the normal persons. Special schools will be discouraged 'except for severely handicapped' who could not be educated with normal children. The scheme of scholarships, both at the Centre and the States, would be expanded further to offer financial support to the students pursuing educational and vocational pursuits. The existing facilities for the production of text books and literature would be augmented to meet the requirements of the expanded educational facilities. The Apprenticeship Training Scheme would be extended to all categories of disabled persons to substantially expand and develop in-plant training. The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRC) are presently undertaking evaluation and adjustment training for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. This scheme is proposed to be expanded in scope by imparting 'skill training' to the physically handicapped in close collaboration with local industry to promote employability of the disabled. Towards the end 'skill training' workshops and training-cum-production centres are proposed to be added to the VRCs.

Employment opportunities for the handicapped would be increased substantially. Schemes linked with vocational training for self-employment would be strengthened and expanded. The reservation of one per cent of vacancies each for the blind, deaf and orthopaedically handicapped in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in Central Services and in comparable posts in public sector undertakings made by the Government in 1977 would be followed by strengthening the

arrangements for monitoring at the Central and State levels. Possibilities for reservation of jobs, stalls and counters at cinema houses, railway stations and other public places as well as other avenues for open competitive employment, self-employment of various types, would be fully explored to provide larger scope for their absorption. Researvation of a particular percentage for activities under TRYSEM would be considered to cover the disabled. Under this scheme, special provision for payment of stipends, appointment of properly trained craftsmen to train the disabled and provision of tools and equipment would be considered. Incentives to employers in the form of tax relief would be provided for production of special equipment or modifications of the existing equipment. Inter-departmental co-ordination committees would be set up at Central, State and other levels to review the programme performance and suggest ways to improve employment and training facilities. Adequate machinery would be created for identifying various types of jobs and training facilities required for filling them.

Recent Steps

The following steps have recently been taken to promote the vocational rehabilitation of physically handicapped persons :

- (a) The Government of India have reiterated the orders reserving 3 per cent of vacancies for physically handicapped persons in Group 'C' and 'D' posts.
- (b) Eighteen State Governments have reserved 1 to 4 per cent of vacancies for the physically handicapped persons.
- (c) All the Ministries/Departments have been requested to nominate a Liaison Officer for monitoring the reservation orders.
- (d) All the Superintendents of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (eleven in number) have been requested to step up the placement of the physically handicapped persons.
- (e) All the State Directors of the Special Employment Exchange for the Physically Handicapped have been requested to issue suitable instructions to maximise the placement.
- (f) A report on the survey, 'Jobs in Group A and B categories' suitable for the physically handicapped persons has been brought out. Similar report for Group 'C' and 'D' categories has also been published. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms have circulated list of jobs suitable to the physically handicapped persons including the blind to all the Ministries/Departments for guidance.
- (g) All the Ministries/Departments have been requested not to reject the physically handicapped persons on flimsy grounds.
- (h) Instructions have been issued for getting the caning of the chairs in all the Ministries/Departments done through the blind only.

- (i) The State Government have been requested to launch a special drive during 1981—the International Year of the Disabled Persons—to provide jobs to all the blind persons registered with the Special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped.
- (j) During 1981-82, it is proposed to set up three Skill Training Workshops at Vocational Rehabilitation Centres one each at Ahmedabad, Madras and Bangalore, two Vocational Rehabilitation Centres in North Bihar and Assam and 11 Rural Rehabilitation Centres to meet the requirements of the rural handicapped population at block level.

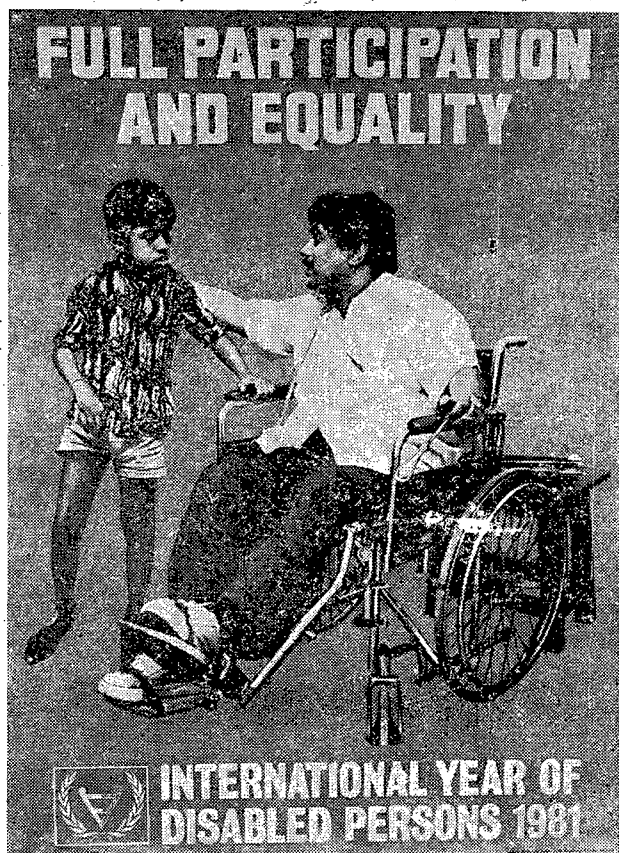
United Efforts

Creation of a fully amalgamated team of various agencies like the Government, private enterprises, community organisations, welfare agencies and the handicapped themselves, merits a priority consideration and effort.

An Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee has been set up to review the position regarding the identification of jobs and reservation of posts suitable for the handicapped. This is likely to give a boost to the employment of the handicapped in the Government sector. In the Sixth Plan 1980-85, the thrust is on the preventive and developmental programmes for the handicapped. It is envisaged to strengthen and expand the existing schemes as also to start new ones. There is much that can be done to prevent or reduce the incidence of disablement. Programme relating to the prevention and early detection will be given preference. Voluntary organizations have to play an important role in this task by stimulating community action for preventive programmes. However, once the damage has been done, rehabilitation is the only solution which is a process of restoration of the handicapped to the fullest physical, mental, social, vocational and economic level of which they are capable. Institutional care will be provided only where it is necessary, as the maintenance of these services is quite expensive. In order not to spread the allocations too thin, areas which are most backward and prone to the handicaps will be identified. Focus will be on the development of multi-disciplinary services for the prevention and treatment of the handicapped. As industrial and agricultural accidents are on the increase, intensive educational programmes are proposed to be taken up for the prevention of such accidents. Steps would be taken for devising safety regulations. Recognising the social and psychological advantages of placing handicapped children with the normal children in ordinary schools, emphasis has been laid on creating more opportunities for integrated education. An effort would be made to improve the functional ability of the disabled by equipping them with proper aids and appliances, produced with the help of modern technology. Provision has been made for the production of simple, durable and low-cost aids. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation will be assisted to enlarge its activities in this direction. It is also under consideration to provide incentives to employers in the form of tax relief for production of special equipment or modifications in the existing equipment. □

Role of Mass Media in IYDP

Vasant Sathé*



DAVP Poster

INDIA has a large population of the physically handicapped. Although precise statistics are not available, the dimensions of the problem are of sufficient magnitude to be a cause for concern. The United Nations takes ten per cent of the population in every country as handicapped. This works out to a staggering figure of over six crore disabled persons in India. The observance of 1981 as the "International Year for Disabled Persons" is a welcome opportunity to focus attention on the problems of this vast section of the community.

In a resolution proclaiming 1981 as "International Year for Disabled Persons", the UN assembly set forth the following objectives: helping disabled persons in their physical and psychological adjustments; promoting national and international effort to provide disabled persons assistance, care and training; encouraging studies and research projects for the disabled; educating the public of the rights of the disabled persons; and promoting effective measures for prevention of disability and rehabilitation of disabled persons. India is one of the signatories to the resolution proclaiming 1981 as International Year for Disabled Persons.

The theme of the year is "full participation and equality." In other words, integration should replace present leanings towards segregation; enrolment of handicapped children in ordinary schools

should replace their relegation to special residential schools where they do not get the love and affection of parents. For adults while the development of the sheltered employment will remain as a desirable programme, greater efforts have to be made towards securing open employment opportunities in the company of normal persons.

Role of Mass Media

The mass media have an important role in creating necessary climate for a proper understanding of the problems of the handicapped and in accelerating action to bring them in the mainstream of national life. What is needed is to arouse the conscience of the community and to remove the barriers of prejudices and misunderstanding against the disabled persons.

A distressing aspect is not only the large number of the physically handicapped in different categories but the fact that much of it is preventable. There are several causes for the large incidence such as the lack of knowledge of health care in rural areas and urban slums, illiteracy and poor health. The job of the media is to create an awareness, particularly among the vulnerable sections of the society, about health care, road sense, cleanliness and other preventive actions. They should also be informed about the various measures being undertaken by the Government and voluntary agencies for their rehabilitation.

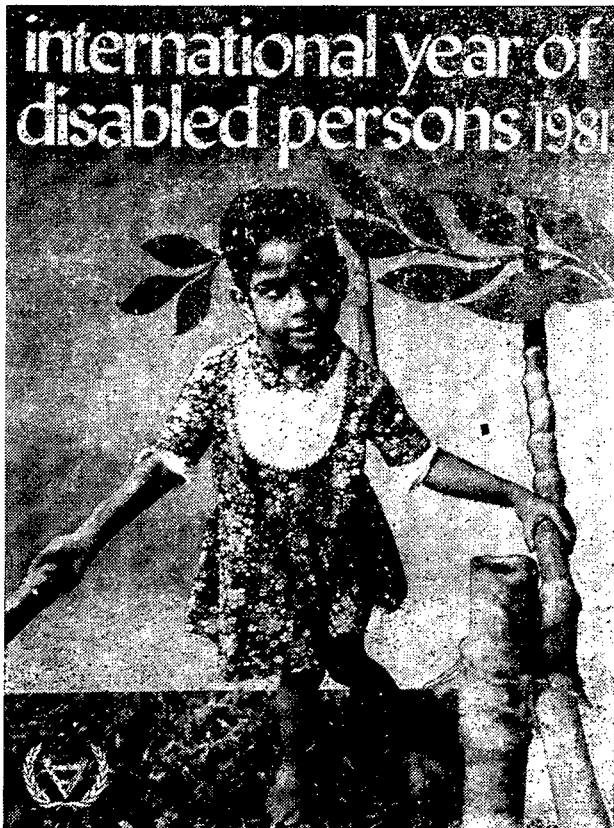
*Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

The Government of India appointed a national committee to consider and finance a National Programme of Action for IYDP and to review its implementation from time to time. Under this programme, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been charged with the task of using the mass media of communication to project a healthy image of the handicapped child at home and the handicapped worker in the office, the factory and the farm; interpretation of the rights of the disabled persons to the community; highlighting the potential of the handicapped people in various walks of life; popularising the contribution of modern technology to the rehabilitation of the handicapped; and affording an opportunity to the handicapped people themselves to explain their problems and potential through the mass media.

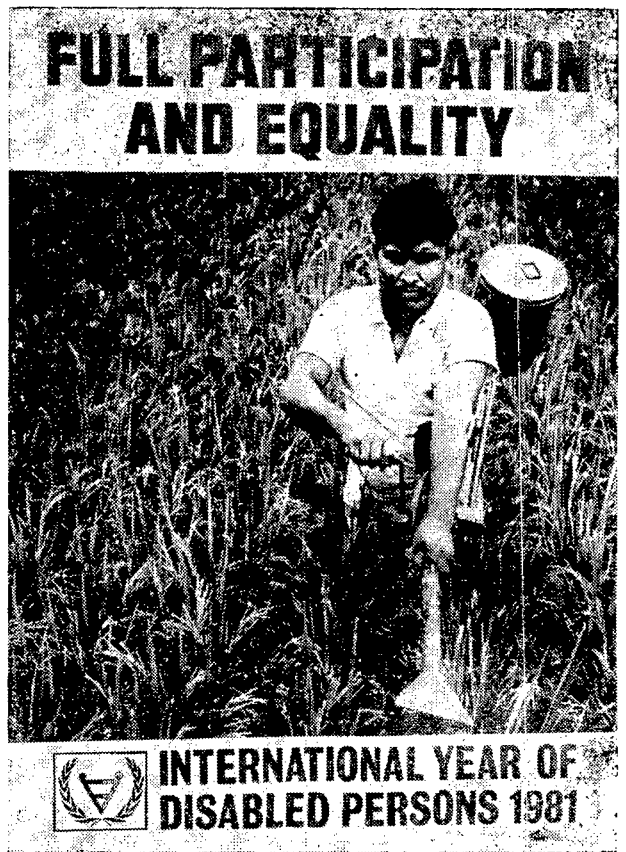
PM's Plea for Public Consciousness

The IYDP was formally inaugurated on January 5, 1981 by the Prime Minister with an impassioned plea for public consciousness "not in the sense of pity but compassion, which is deeper and which needs positive action." The Prime Minister's appeal for a "positive action" set the tone for observance of IYDP in India. It also provided guidelines for the media units under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

All India Radio and Doordarshan have been putting out special programmes to educate the public and to highlight the potential of the handicapped for various jobs. Interviews with disabled persons who have waged a successful struggle in life are broadcast.



DAVP Poster



DAVP Poster

Experts and social workers engaged in the work of rehabilitation are also invited to educate the public about their own experience in the field.

The Films Division has undertaken production of films on rehabilitation and employment for the physically handicapped; training and skills and employment potential of the blind in various sectors of national economy; and rehabilitation of physically handicapped in rural areas. Two more films are included in the production programme of the current year. The subject was also widely covered in the weekly newsreels.

The Directorate of Field Publicity are providing sustained publicity to the theme of IYDP. Since the beginning of this year the field units have undertaken a campaign to make the people aware of the problems of the handicapped and the help required to make these people self-reliant. DAVP has produced three posters highlighting the theme of the year, viz., "full participation and equality". While a brochure has already been brought out in English and Hindi, some more folders are to be taken up in consultation with the Ministry of Social Welfare.

The rehabilitation of the disabled is a continuous process which cannot be accomplished in a single year. But if IYDP succeeds in creating an awareness in the community about this humanitarian problem, it would have achieved its objective. □

The Physically Handicapped :

Their Placement and Rehabilitation

V. K. Srivastava*

AT PRESENT 21 Special Employment Exchanges for the Physically Handicapped are functioning at different places in the country. They are situated at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Surat, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Chandigarh (Punjab), Dehi, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Madras, Trivandrum, Jabalpur, Patna, Chandigarh (Haryana), Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Gauhati (Assam), Simla and Agartala (Tripura). The Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of India have sanctioned the creation of the post of Assistant Employment Officer each at eleven normal Employment Exchanges at Pune, Nagpur, Madurai, Lucknow, Agra, Varanasi, Allahabad, Indore, Chandigarh (Union Territory), Pondicherry and Goa to assist the physically handicapped persons registered in these Exchanges. Besides, there are eleven Vocational Rehabilitation Centres one each at Bombay, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Delhi, Kanpur, Calcutta, Madras, Ludhiana, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum and Bangalore functioning for the vocational evaluation and imparting of adjustment training to the physically handicapped persons.

Although the various Employment Exchanges under the National Employment Service are generally responsible for the placement of the physically handicapped, it was only after the setting up of Special Employment Exchanges for them that it has been possible to secure for the disabled the most satisfying form of employment suitable to their physical and mental potentialities. The Special Employment Exchanges follow the following selective placement principle in referring and placing physically handicapped persons in various jobs :

- (i) Job referral only on the basis of ability.
- (ii) Individualised approach.
- (iii) Positive attitude towards disabled persons.
- (iv) Correction of disability prior to placement.
- (v) Placement at highest level of his skill.

The employment assistance through the Special Employment Exchanges is at present restricted to the blind, deaf and dumb and orthopaedically handicapped. It has been decided to extend, as an experimental measure, the scope of Special Employment Exchanges at Bombay and Delhi so as to enable them to render employment assistance also to the following categories of the physically handicapped :

- (i) Mild neurological cases.
- (ii) Respiratory cases (Non-infectious).
- (iii) Paraparesis and hemiparesis.

*Asstt. Director of Employment Exchanges, Ministry of Labour.

Rehabilitation Centres

Despite the services provided by the Special Employment Exchanges, it was felt that the placement of physically handicapped persons can further improve if arrangements for proper vocational assistance and adjustment training are made available to them. In order to assess the vocational and psychological needs of the physically handicapped persons (blind, deaf and dumb and orthopaedics) and also to render assistance in the rehabilitation of such persons, Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Physically Handicapped persons have been set up in the country. These Centres offer the following services :

- (i) The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres admit physically handicapped persons to evaluate them vocationally, assess medically their residual capacity and measure them psychologically.
- (ii) The handicapped persons are interviewed for knowing their personal, social, family, educational, economic and vocational background which often cause adjustment problems.
- (iii) They are put through various psychological tests to assess their intelligence, aptitude, manual dexterity, personality and adjustment problems.
- (iv) They are also examined by a panel of medical specialists to give opinion on their residual work capacities and suggest remedial or curative measures.
- (v) The capacity of handicapped clients is also tested in the workshop attached to the Centre in units such as metal, carpentry, radio, commercial drawing, painting, etc. A close observation of their capacities by experienced evaluators helps in knowing their vocational assets and skill potentialities.
- (vi) The clients are given the necessary counselling and workshop training to adjust them in their work habits, motivate them for taking decision in right perspective both in personal and vocational areas.
- (vii) The parents of handicapped clients are interviewed to fill the gaps in information relating to the clients. The assessment made and the vocational plan chalked out are also discussed with the parents.
- (viii) The cases of handicapped clients are discussed in detail in a conference where decisions regarding vocational plan are taken. Besides the members of staff of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres, such conferen-

ces are attended by medical specialists; Employment Officers for Physically Handicapped and employers.

(ix) Efforts are made to place the physically handicapped clients, evaluated at the Centre in the suitable jobs with the help of the Special Employment Exchanges. In the case of clients in need of training, arrangements are made to impart the required short-term training in industrial training institutes/industry. Due to paucity of paid jobs in the open competitive market V.R.Cs have made the maximum use of Inplant Training Scheme and Apprenticeship Training Scheme to rehabilitate physically handicapped persons vocationally. A large number of physically handicapped persons have also been rehabilitated by these Centres in the field of self-employment.

(x) After a handicapped person is employed in an establishment the following services are rendered :

- (a) Client adjustment
- (b) Job adjustment
- (c) Client Counselling.

After the Job/Training is found for the physically handicapped person in an industry or in an institution he may need some adjustment training, which is also provided at the Centre. The object of this training

which lasts for about 8 to 10 days, is to make the client mentally alert and socially amiable. He is assisted to adjust himself to his disability. Efforts are made to simulate the real conditions which the individual is likely to experience in job or training. The Rehabilitation Officer and the workshop Foreman provide the necessary guidance and assistance in order to facilitate his adjustment. Importance of such factors like appropriate dress, proper grooming, pleasing physical appearance is stressed on the client. This training is useful in inculcating good work habits and attitude.

(xi) In cases, where further medical assistance such as physical restoration is required, the agency concerned is contacted and the clients are assisted in obtaining the necessary services. Case records are developed for such persons admitted to the Centre. These records are available for perusal by employers or the representatives of referral agencies.

An advisory board comprising representative of government, industry, rehabilitation agencies and medical specialists has been set up for such Centres to advise on matters relating to the rehabilitation and welfare of physically handicapped persons.

Details of work performed by the Special Employment Exchanges and Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Physically Handicapped may be seen in Annexures I and II respectively.

ANNEXURE—I

Statement showing the number of registrations and placements effected by Special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped during the Year 1980 and their number on the Live Register as on 31st December, 1980

Special Employment Exchanges for the Physically Handicapped	Number of Registrations made				Number of placements effected				Number on Live Register as on 31-12-1980			
	Blind	Deaf & Dumb	Ortho-pae-dics	Total	Blind	Deaf & Dumb	Ortho-pae-dics	Total	Blind	Deaf & Dumb	Ortho-pae-dics	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Bombay	88	56	395	539	18	8	235	261	185	49	467	701
2. Delhi	189	20	636	835	10	4	150	164	333	89	1867	2289
3. Madras £	114	104	527	745	13	24	302	339	822	533	3310	4665
4. Hyderabad	90	41	408	539	7	25	102	134	392	347	2582	3321
5. Calcutta									200	369	3043	3612**
6. Ahmedabad ££	48	17	395	460	6	8	140	154	134	20	923	1077
7. Bangalore	79	63	655	797	..	15	143	158	174	136	1701	2011
8. Chandigarh (Pb)	32	1	1705	1738	..	..	93	93	50	4	3153	3207
9. Kanpur	43	28	595	666	1	8	60	69	76	38	914	1028
10. Trivandrum	15	14	757	786	..	..	345	345	66	96	2047	2209
11. Jabalpur	46	17	384	447	2	4	48	54	145	71	1087	1303
12. Patna £	12	6	110	128	..	..	11	11	115	52	734	901
13. Chandigarh (Har)*												
14. Bhubaneswar ££	10	5	52	67	1	1	3	5	39	41	201	281
15. Jaipur ££	9	5	176	190	..	..	49	49	26	10	467	503
16. Gauhati @												
17. Simla *												
18. Agartala @												
Total	775	377	6785	7937	58	97	1681	1836	2757	1855	22496	27108

Note : £Information relates to the period Jan-June 1980.

££Information relates to the period Jan-Sept 1980.

*The Special Employment Exchanges Chandigarh (Har) & Simla maintain duplicate index cards only.

@No statistical return of the performance of the special exchanges at Gauhati & Agartala have not yet been received.

**As on 31st December, 1979 relevant returns from Spl. Exchange, Calcutta, have not been received during 1980.

ANNEXURE-II

Performance of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres of Physically Handicapped during the Year 1980

Description	(1) BOMBAY				(2) HYDERABAD				(3) JABALPUR			
	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. No. of clients at the beginning of the year	5	4	23	32	1	1	21	23	4	2	33	39
2. No. of clients admitted	249	69	520	838	49	43	1201	1293	127	28	591	746
3. No. of clients evaluated	241	70	512	823	50	43	1186	1279	123	28	586	737
4. No. of clients who left the centre without completing evaluation	12	2	24	38	..	..	..	..	6	1	25	32
5. No. of clients still under evaluation at the end of Dec. 1980	1	1	7	9	..	1	36	37	2	1	13	16
6. No. of clients rehabilitated	99	79	218	396	30	38	379	447	17	22	265	304

Description	(4) DELHI				(5) LUDHIANA				(3) KANPUR			
	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1. No. of clients at the beginning of the year	..	..	14	14	..	..	2	2	3	1	12	16
2. No. of clients admitted	74	136	384	594	20	8	526	554	29	29	579	637
3. No. of clients evaluated	70	134	370	574	20	8	482	510	25	25	491	541
4. No. of clients who left the centre without completing evaluation	2	1	11	14	..	..	40	40	7	4	95	106
5. No. of clients still under evaluation at the end of Dec., 1980	2	1	17	20	..	..	6	6	..	1	5	6
6. No. of clients rehabilitated	17	30	195	242	10	3	183	196	13	14	233	260

Description	(7) CALCUTTA				(8) MADRAS				(9) AHMEDABAD			
	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
1. No. of clients at the beginning of the year	4	11	33	48	4	7	25	36	..	2	22	24
2. No. of clients admitted	36	74	494	604	66	113	566	745	62	23	478	563
3. No. of clients evaluated	29	64	409	502	66	115	564	745	43	22	407	472
4. No. of clients who left the centre without completing evaluation	3	10	65	78	..	..	..	..	13	2	76	91
5. No. of clients still under evaluation at the end of Dec., 1980	8	11	53	72	4	5	27	36	6	1	17	24
6. No. of clients rehabilitated	3	46	145	194	34	57	334	425	15	16	218	249

Description	(18) TRIVANDRUM				(11) BANGALORE			
	Blind & Dumb	Deaf & pae-dics	Ortho pae-dics	Total	NOT AVAILABLE			
	38	39	40	41				
1. No. of clients at the beginning of the year	..	..	14	14	NOT AVAILABLE			
2. No. of clients admitted	9	26	335	370	NOT AVAILABLE			
3. No. of clients evaluated	6	21	304	331	NOT AVAILABLE			
4. No. of clients who left the centre without completing evaluation	1	4	23	28	NOT AVAILABLE			
5. No. of clients still under evaluation at the end of Dec., 1980	2	1	22	25	NOT AVAILABLE			
6. No. of clients rehabilitated	..	4	77	81	NOT AVAILABLE			

Integrated Education of Disabled Children

Uma Joshi*



A doctor examining a disabled child

INDIA has witnessed phenomenal expansion of educational opportunities since the attainment of independence. However, the disabled children have not yet benefited in any substantial manner from the growth in educational facilities. It is encouraging to note that the National Policy Resolution on Education has recommended the placement of such children in regular schools so as to provide them integrated education with normal students. The integrated education will take care of the different needs of various categories and types of disabled children. The objective is to place the disabled children in ordinary schools for imparting education with the help of special teachers, aids and other resources. For fulfilling this objective, necessary infrastructural facilities, training of teachers, provision of equipment and books, resources rooms and assessment facilities are some of the basic prerequisites.

So far children with various disabilities have been

* Psychologist, Institute for the Physically Handicapped, Ministry of Social Welfare, New Delhi.

placed in special day or residential schools. Special schools have, however, played a pioneering role in the development of techniques and technologies designed to deal with the specific problems of many types of disabled children. However, the services of special schools have reached only a limited number of children.

Advantages of Integration.

Integration of handicapped children in ordinary schools with the normal children has a number of social and psychological advantages for the handicapped as well as non-handicapped children. Apart from these advantages, such placement is the most effective way of providing educational facilities for handicapped children in large numbers. The scheme also ensures that disabled children stay with their own parents and attend ordinary schools like other children. There is no restriction on a particular school covering more than one type of disability under

the scheme. A school may, in view of its existing facilities and capacity, decide upon extending its services to one or more categories of disabled children. There is also no restriction on the minimum number of children in a school for the purpose of introducing integrated education.

Implementing Agencies

Since this is a Centrally sponsored scheme, the Central Government will pay the entire cost during the Sixth Plan period. The cost will be assessed on the basis of the criteria laid down in the scheme. The main implementing agencies are the education departments of State Governments. It is left to them to decide whether to make use of government or private schools or both. They may also utilise the services of national, Regional, State or local level agencies in an advisory or inspecting capacity. Each State shall appoint a psychologist as a coordinator of the programme for undertaking psychological assessment of the children and for monitoring their progress on a regular basis. There is also an assessment centre in each State capital or district headquarter or in any other central place which fulfils the prime condition of having 50 or more children in the integrated school system. Where the scheme is yet to be started, an assessment room can be provided for such a district headquarter or a State capital or any other central place. The assessment team may consist of specialists like paediatrician, ophthalmologist, ENT surgeon, orthopaedic surgeon, psychologist and special teachers.

Under the scheme, children are given following facilities :—

- (a) Equipment allowance of Rs. 800 to be spent over a period of five years.
- (b) Books and stationery allowance of Rs. 400 per child per year.
- (c) Transport allowance of Rs. 50 per month
- (d) Reader allowance of Rs. 50 per month for blind children.
- (e) Escort allowance for severely handicapped with lower extremity disability Rs. 75 per month.

Teacher's Role

Training of teacher, who can teach the disabled children is the major kingpin of this scheme. Teachers are supposed to be the strongest role model for children. In fact, we come across several cases where children are more obedient towards their teachers than towards their parents. Unfortunately, in our country, teachers are not conscious of their influencing capacity. Therefore, much of what our children, particularly the handicapped ones, could gain from communicating with them is just not there in the true sense.

Educational Facilities

Educational facilities are being provided under the scheme to the following types of disabled children :—

1. The blind and the partially sighted.
2. The deaf and the partially hearing.
3. The orthopaedically or neurologically handicapped.
4. Children with multiple handicaps.
5. Educable mentally retarded.



Artificial leg being fitted on a handicapped child.

Social Activities

Each handicapped student should be able to find in the school some form of social activity that will meet his particular interest and that will challenge him to successful participation in the activity. A well-organised school can provide many opportunities for its student to participate in self-initiated projects and social activities. Proficiency in the fundamental tools of learning should be achieved in class-room situations which stimulate the child not only to gain skills and knowledge but also to develop attitudes of cooperation both with adults and with young persons of his own age.

When we talk about integrated education for the disabled, it is important to know how socialisation is reflected in the changing interaction of a child in his peer-group. A young child does not automatically interact too well with peers. Reasons are his greater distractability, his lower tolerance of frustrations, his lesser ability to endure delay of gratification, and his inferior skill in communication. These deficiencies can be related to his inability to take the role of the other children, i.e., looking at things objectively. Mass media like books, comics, movies, T.V., etc., are of secondary importance for influencing children. Child's peers and his school have become the real beneficiaries of the parents' decline as a



A workshop for artificial limbs

socialising influence. Early adjustment with peers is a good barometer for adjustment in adult life. Developmentally, the child-adolescent progresses from an egocentric to a socialised pattern of communication through school education.

Humane approach

The parents or guardians of disabled children also need to adopt a humane approach in treating and educating them. Unfortunately, there have been cases where children, even though not disabled, are being treated so because they suffer from some weaknesses bordering slightly on disabilities. There are cases where children have weak eye-sight or deafness but have been dubbed as mentally retarded by their school teachers. It is important to remember that teachers have a great responsibility towards their young students because the wrong impression

they may have about their students may disturb their adjustment with fellow students and they eventually turn as juvenile delinquents.

There should be stimulation and education from earliest possible moment in the child's life to develop to the utmost his limited potential. This line of treatment is based on the time-tested principle that mental ability grows when it is nourished by love and care. Hence, there is need to be truly affectionate towards the handicapped. To give them education in the same schools in which normal children study is the appropriate approach and as such, the government's integrated education scheme for the disabled is a step in the right direction.

At a young age the normal children are in a better position to accept disabled children and this helps the latter to grow in a much normal manner. Although intelligence is an important characteristic but it should not over-ride other aspects of personality of a disabled child who can be successful even with mild or moderate intelligence. At no stage should there be inculcation of inferiority complex in the disabled child in respect of his disability.

All said and done, we need faithful and imaginative implementation of the scheme. The handicapped children need the compassion of a Florence Nightangle or a Mother Teresa who did not fight odds with legal weapons but with courage, kindness and selfless devotion to the cause which was dear to their hearts. The disabled children do not need emotional crutches or legislation which may not be implemented, or funds that may not be used to help them. What they need is graceful, sympathetic handling of their predicament, treating them as part of the mainstream of our national life. Therefore, what they need is illumination in the darkness of their existence in the origin of which they had no part to play and in the battle against which they are handicapped by situation and social attitudes.

A tailoring class in progress



Deft

Hands and Feet for the Disabled

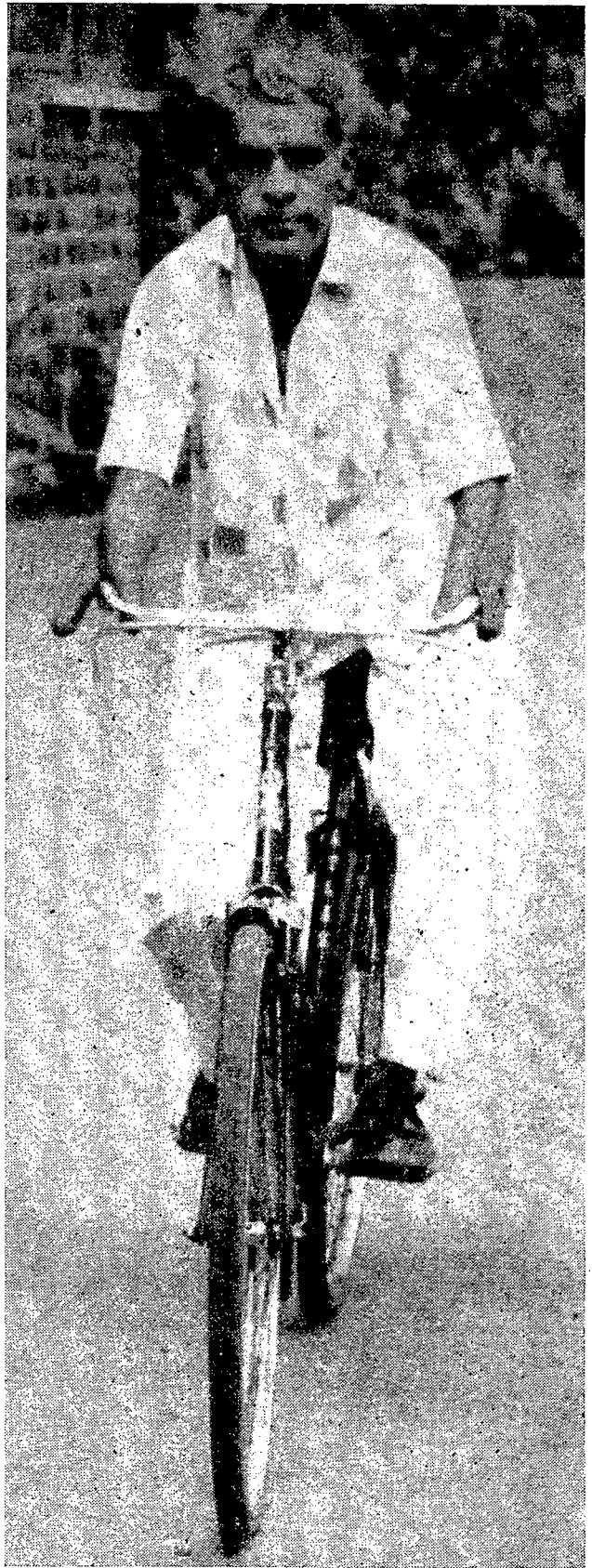
M. K. Parthy*

ANUPAMAKUMARI is a smart village girl from the Bhagalpur district of Bihar. A few years ago she lost her hands in an accident. Now one of her hands is a stump little below the elbow and the other hand has only two fingers. Without hands her life could become a liability apart from life-long mental depression and sense of inferiority. But she is cheerful and self-confident. Now she is studying in the ninth class. The loss of the natural hands does not make any difference to her and she works like other normal girls. She knits well and is good at making fancy articles of nylon strips, which work requires deft fingers. The Artificial Limbs Centre (ALC) at Pune (Maharashtra) has given her a new hand and taught the skill.

Ajay Goutole is another case. This young boy from Latur, a small town in Maharashtra, is studying in a college. The bright gleam in his large eyes and the smile on his dark face never wane and you can hardly detect that he is living a life cursed by fate, unless you notice his legs. He was afflicted with Polio when he was a baby of nine months. The scourge has eaten away the flesh of his right leg and left it a lanky bone stick. But he is not a life-long weakling as you might imagine him to be. He is buoyant and walks like a normal person. The ALC has given him a calliper to strengthen his affected leg.

The ALC brings cheer to hundreds of hapless lives and turns them into useful citizens—useful both to themselves as well as to the community. Every year it attends to about three thousand physically handicapped people. They include men, women and children, without distinction of caste or creed or social status. They come from all parts of the country. There is sixty-year old Vasudev Upadhyay, a Brahmin priest from Assam, and Altaf, an eight-year boy from Muzaffarnagar. Lal Singh is from Rewa in Madhya Pradesh and Venkata Reddi from Andhra Pradesh.

The ALC provides them a package of services for relief and rehabilitation. It is the only institution of its kind in the country. It not only supplies artificial appliances to the physically disabled, but also attends to all their needs until they get over the physical and mental inhibitions due to the disability and are able to work nearly like normal persons.



Shri Bashiruddin is cycling by controlling the handle with forked stumps of hands without wrists

*Freelance writer



Handicapped compositors at work in a printing press

Total Care

The care begins at the clinical stage. Every patient is thoroughly examined by a team of medical experts and prescriptions for him are decided. He is kept under close observation until he is discharged. Medical treatment is given for his ailments. Surgical operations are carried out to correct his disability or deformity. Young kids get ray therapy for congenital deformities. There is a physio-therapy department for this purpose.

The next stage is the supply of artificial aid. There are two types of aids—prosthetic and orthotic. Some patients need artificial limbs in the place of the lost ones and some others can do with a supporting artifact to strengthen the weakened limb. Such supports are called surgical appliances. In both cases the artifacts are fabricated to specifications of each individual patient and fitted on him. This is a time-consuming process of trial and improvement. The process is complete when the patient is fully at ease with the artifact and can satisfactorily operate it himself.

Often minor surgical operations are necessary before fitting an artificial limb. The stump of the amputated limb, on which an artificial limb is to be fixed, has to be properly adjusted. Such operations are done by the surgeons at the Centre. Operations also become necessary for activating the muscles and nerves of the disabled part.

When the artificial limb is ready, the patient is given trials. If necessary, temporary pylons are used on him until he gets accustomed to the new device. Modifications, if any, to suit the individual's physical structure are made. Then begins the training in the use of the device. The instructors teach the patient how to manipulate the different parts of the new limb for different activities. The patient has to do the exercises every day.

The artificial limb or appliance is not a dummy show piece. It is a substitute limb. It has to be functional to help the person in his activities. It is therefore fitted with flexible joints, levers and operational wires connected with the muscles in the relevant part of the person's body. These muscles provide impetus for manipulating the artifact. The patient is taught to exercise these muscles.

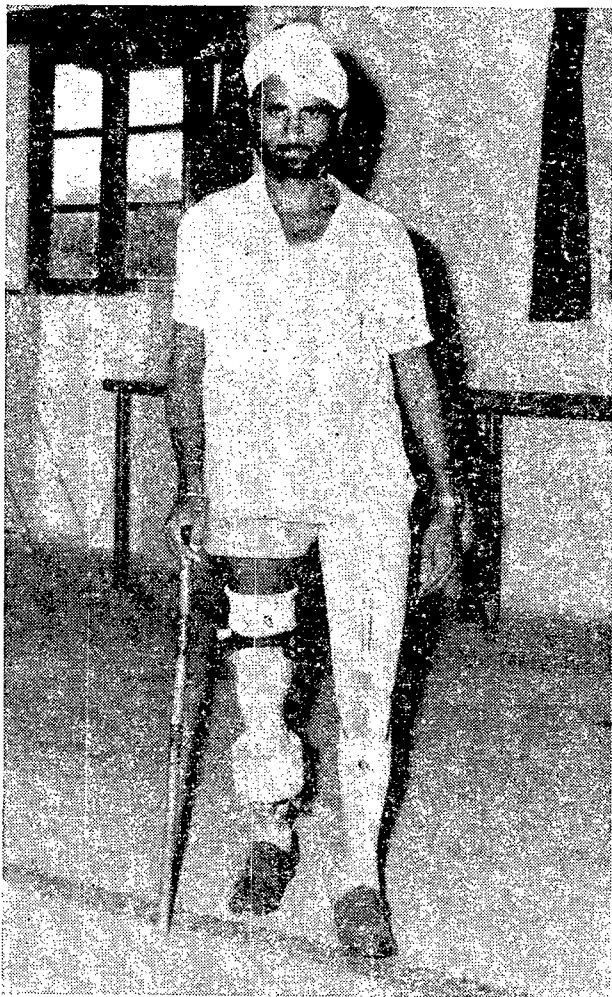
The very purpose in providing these devices is to make life useful for a disabled person. He should be able to work like a normal being. His energy should not go waste by disuse nor should he become a permanent burden on the society. Therefore it is not enough that a patient gets an artificial limb and knows how to use it. He should also learn some gainful skill by which he can earn a living. With this view, the ALC imparts training in some simple trades like basket-making, caning, knitting, tailoring, type writing, printing and radio repairing. Thus, when a patient leaves the Centre he is not only equipped with a substitute limb but also is in a position to rehabilitate himself in the wide world.

Renovation of Life

The ALC is an institution for the renovation of life. Signs of this renovation are visible all over the expansive campus of the Centre. Life flows free and cheerful in the midst of men in Khaki uniforms. It is a military area, but the atmosphere is informal. The commandant of the Centre, Brigadier I. C. Narang, is himself very friendly and his affectionate bearing is contagious. Every activity goes on smoothly according to the set time table in the various departments. Outside, the patients sit chatting or roam about in their leisure hours.



An instructor sawing a piece of wood with artificial arm.



Grumel Singh doing walking exercise with artificial legs.

The patients have enough time for relaxation and recreation. Facilities have been provided for this purpose and include a swimming pool, a gymnasium, a library and courts for indoor and outdoor games. A civilian social worker looks after their personal problems. Mrs. Vidya Jape has been working as social worker for over a decade. The patients have found a good friend and guide in her. She acts as an intimate link between the authorities and patients. They flock to her with their complaints and difficulties, even in relation to their jobs. She patiently and cheerfully helps them.

The Centre has a well equipped workshop to meet fully its requirements of artificial limbs and surgical appliances. The workshop has several sections. It makes artificial limbs like legs and hands and surgical appliances including splints, braces, collars, callipers, boots and other walking aids. Every piece is manufactured meticulously according to the specifications of the individual patient.

In the earlier stages the Centre used to import raw materials for making these aids. But gradually it has shifted to indigenous materials. It keeps itself abreast of the developments in technology and carries on research to improve the quality and efficiency of the products. Workers are deputed to learn the latest

methods. As a result of its research, some items have been modified and some new ones designed. Plastics and lighter materials are being used increasingly in the fabrication of these items.

Four Decades of Service

The ALC has been serving the disabled people for nearly four decades. It was set up in 1944 as an army unit to supply artificial aids for the disabled defence personnel. Earlier the army used to buy these items from civilian contractors at Sialkot. Early in 1947 the Centre was shifted to Lahore but after partition it was restarted at Pune.

Although it is managed by the armed forces and continues to cater to the needs of the defence personnel, it is open to civilians. The civilian wing was started in 1951. No distinction is made between a civilian and a serviceman so far as the treatment is concerned. During the past thirty years over 20,000 civilians have taken the benefit of its services.

There has always been a heavy demand on the Centre's services. At present it has a capacity for 190 indoor patients—120 beds for servicemen and 70 beds for civilians. Women and children are kept in a separate ward. It is always full to the capacity. Besides, a number of outdoor patients visit the Centre regularly.

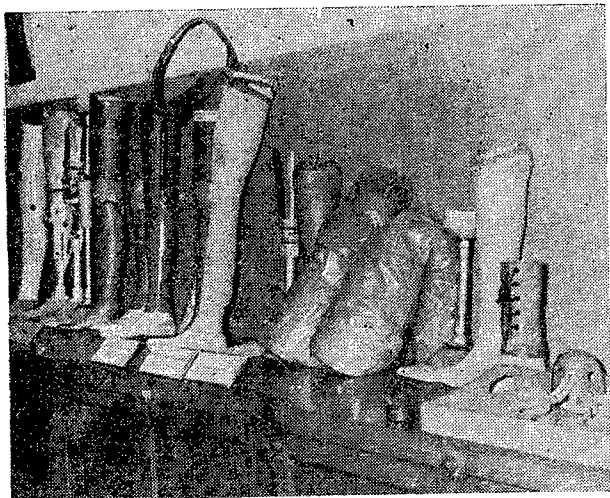
In 1964 two sub-centres were established at Delhi and Lucknow. They are intended to ease the pressure on the Pune centre and carry out repairs and replacements of the aids. Patients from far-off places in the north need not come to Pune for these minor requirements.

The ALC coordinates its activities with other official institutions in the field. It is represented by the commandant on the board of directors of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation at Kanpur, the advisory boards of the vocational rehabilitation centres at Hyderabad, Bombay and Jabalpur, the National Rehabilitation Board and the Indian Standard Institute's committees for rehabilitation equipment and artificial limbs.

Treatment at the Centre is free for defence personnel whether in service or retired. It is also free for families of JCOs and other lower ranks. Civilians have to pay at the nominal rate of Rs. 5 per day. It includes all medical care, lodging, boarding and other facilities. All patients are kept in general wards and there is no special accommodation for individual cases. The artificial limbs are supplied at subsidised rates. A leg costs about Rs. 300—400 and a collar about Rs. 40.

Recently a scheme of aid to civilians has been introduced under which treatment is given free to people earning less than Rs. 750 per month and half free to those earning between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1500 per month.

Admission to the Centre does not take an involved procedure. A patient has only to write to the commandant about his disability or deformity, along with a certificate from an orthopaedic surgeon. He receives a call for interview in due course. The ALC claims that it has not refused admission to any civilian patient so far. But sometimes he has to wait. The admission depends on the availability of a seat. Already 1500 patients are on the waiting list and at present the waiting period is about 15 months. Those who can afford, stay outside the campus and take advantage of the Centre's services.



Legs manufactured at the workshop.

Once admitted, a patient has to stay in the Centre for eight to twelve weeks. This much time is normally necessary for his medical treatment and surgical operations, fabrication and fitting of the artificial aid he needs, his training and exercises in using the appliance, and learning some craft or skill for his rehabilitation. There are also cases where the process takes a longer time.

The Centre also renders advice to outsiders for treatment of the disabled.

An artificial limb or appliance has a normal life of five years unanticipated wear and tear has also to be taken into account. The limb has therefore to be repaired or replaced times and again. For this the patient has to come to the Centre often and thus becomes a member of the Centre's fraternity. A permanent disability number is given to every patient and a personal case file is maintained for this purpose.

In fact, the Centre's responsibility ends with the treatment and training of the patient. But it also helps patients to find suitable occupation. It has given employment to many of its patients. A number of them



Anupama Kumari (left) making a purse. Her left hand is false and right hand has two fingers. Vijaya Magasa (right) with right hand amputated is knitting

are seen working in different departments. There is Ramachandrajai, a well-built Jat soldier from Haryana. He has no arm on the right shoulder. Now he is an instructor training other patients in the use of false hands. Bashiruddin, a civilian, who lost both hands in a railway accident in 1964, is another instructor. He works efficiently with the stumps of hands surgically forked below the elbow. Both of them had come to the Centre as patients. Teresa Swami, a housewife from Karnataka, works without fingers as a compositor in the printing press. All these disabled workers are a living testimony to the wonders that the Centre works in the lives of the disabled.

The ALC is thus not a mere factory for manufacturing artificial limbs and surgical appliances but also a benevolent institution for the total care and rehabilitation of the disabled. Patients coming to the Centre have some disability or other, their future is bleak and spirits low. After sometime they leave the Centre with hope in their hearts and an artificial aids to help them in their disability.

(Photographs by M. R. Hadkar)

Intensive F.P. Programme in the Country

THE Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri B. Shankaranand has appealed to the Members of Parliament to intensify efforts all over the country to promote the Family Welfare Programme and make the people aware of the dangers of rising population.

Addressing Members of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi recently Shri Shankaranand said that the Members of Parliament should associate all groups, without distinction of caste, creed or political affiliation, in motivating the people to accept the small family norm. In this connection he recalled the consensus reached on the subject, following the New Delhi Dec-

laration of Parliamentarians on May 25.

Members of the Consultative Committee assured their full cooperation in the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide health care and family planning services in the country. Many Members gave details of the work done by them in different parts of the country recently. Members of the Consultative Committee appreciated, in particular, the work done by the Ministry in evolving a National Health Policy, a Population Policy and a Health and Medical Education Policy. A special meeting of the Consultative Committee will be held shortly to consider these policies in details. □

Good Foundation for Meaningful Rehabilitation

E. P. Radhakrishnan*

DISABLED or physically handicapped persons do have as much right as the fit to eke out a living on their own. So the social conscience of the world as a whole has been aroused to give them a helping hand and thus enable the helpless handicapped people earn self-respect and become useful partners in the progress of a nation. The United Nations has declared 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons.

In India, a national committee was set up to chalk out definite programmes for helping the disabled in the year. The national policy evolved by this committee has certain specific objectives. They were :

To evolve a national policy on the disabled to give them suitable educational and vocational training, and employ them in suitable jobs as also to integrate them fully socially by giving protections and guarantees under the law.

To lay the foundation of a network of services for the handicapped that reaches the grassroot level so that a comprehensive rehabilitation service is eventually provided.

To initiate a few practical programmes that would carry immediate and significant benefits to the handicapped people themselves.

To start concrete programmes to bring about the integration of the physically handicapped people into the mainstream of the society.

To give a positive rural bias to services for the handicapped, since in India a large majority of the handicapped live in rural areas.

To develop a strong national disability prevention programme.

To prepare a base for research and development through the national institutes, institutes of technology and other bodies to develop artificial limbs and aids which will help the handicapped in many ways.

According to the United Nations, 10 per cent of the total population in every country is handicapped some way or the other. In India, there are many physically handicapped people belonging to low income groups. Physical disability restricts their opportunities for economic rehabilitation.

A number of aids can reduce the effects of disabilities and thus enhance the economic potential of the physically handicapped. A wheelchair, an artificial limb a crutch, a brace and a splint can greatly improve the mobility of a physically handicapped individual. Similarly with the help of a powerful hearing aid, a person with some residual hearing can be helped to carry on many activities in daily life. Low vision aids can also help such persons with substantially reduced visions to read print and undertake other activities resulting in their rehabilitation. But many physically handicapped persons can not afford to go in for any aid.

There are 13 agencies implementing the government's scheme of assistance to the disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances. The largest of them is the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India in Kanpur. The artificial limbs manufactured at Kanpur have become very popular on account of their utility and manoeuvrability. There are some new models of such aids and appliances which enable the handicapped to operate telephone exchange, sewing machines, as well as do many a domestic chore.

India is probably the first country which launched in 1981, a series of surveys for gathering the much-needed information about the physically handicapped in both urban and rural areas ; its size needs and dimensions and characteristics. Since independence the Government of India has taken many a step in identifying and categorizing the handicapped and also by making a reservation of 3 per cent of jobs in public employment. The government has also appealed to the private sector to provide an increase in jobs for them.

A conservative estimate, made by the Spastics Society of India, shows that there are nearly 2 million spastics in India. To alleviate their plight a number of programmes are being implemented. Teachers and therapists are trained. Sheltered workshops are conducted. Aids and appliances for spastics are being developed. An integrated programme of education for helping handicapped children in the ordinary

*Freelance Writer.

schools, has also been started. In addition to government-sponsored short-term refresher courses to teachers of handicapped children, there are four centres functioning for blind teachers at Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

Scholarships for the physically handicapped children are also provided. Starting from a modest 22 scholarships in 1955, the number rose to 8,500 in 1979-80 involving a disbursement of Rs. 50.10 lakh.

At present there are 18 special employment exchanges for the physically handicapped to help them in finding suitable vocations. The number of placements made by these exchanges were 1507 (1977-78); 1616 (1978-79); and 1730 (1979-80). In addition, at present, there are 11 vocational rehabilitation centres functioning in the country. The Sixth Plan has earmarked Rs. 5 crores for expanding and improving the courses in vocational rehabilitation centres by assisting them to set up skill-training workshops, as also establishing rural rehabilitation centres.

The government also proposes to set up a national institute for each major category of the handicapped

viz blind, orthopaedically handicapped, deaf and mentally retarded. Of these the National Institutes for the Blind and the Orthopaedically Handicapped have started functioning from Dehra Dun and Calcutta, respectively. These institutes will render services in the field of research, training of personnel, as well as national level services.

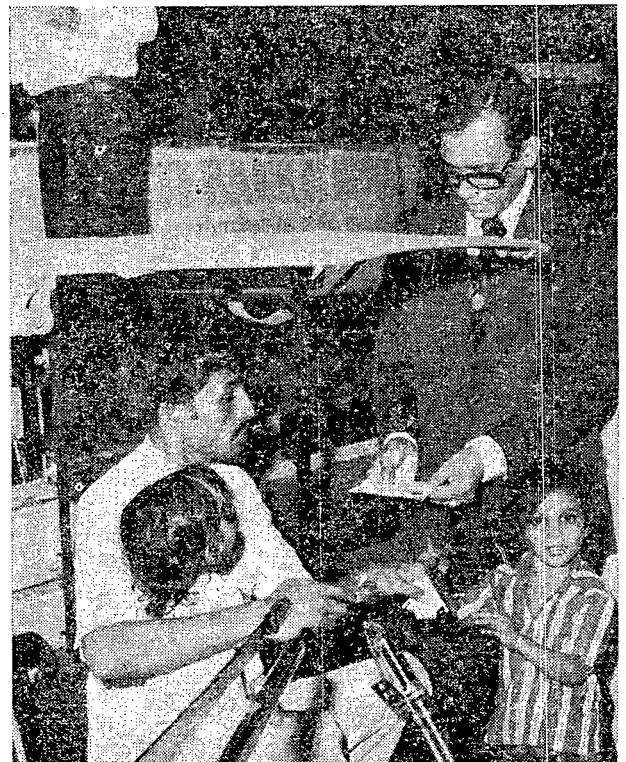
The Government of India proposes to start a massive scheme to place disabled children in ordinary schools. Here they will be provided special support through trained teachers and special equipment and materials needed to make education meaningful. A plan has already been drawn up to bring half a million handicapped children to school in the next 20 years.

The magnitude and diversity of the problem of the disabled are indeed staggering. Only patience, persistent effort, time and sympathy for them with a purposeful commitment to help them earn self-respect in society will solve the problem. The true foundation for a meaningful rehabilitation of the disabled has been laid in India. The future for them is bright.

State Bank's Support to Handicapped

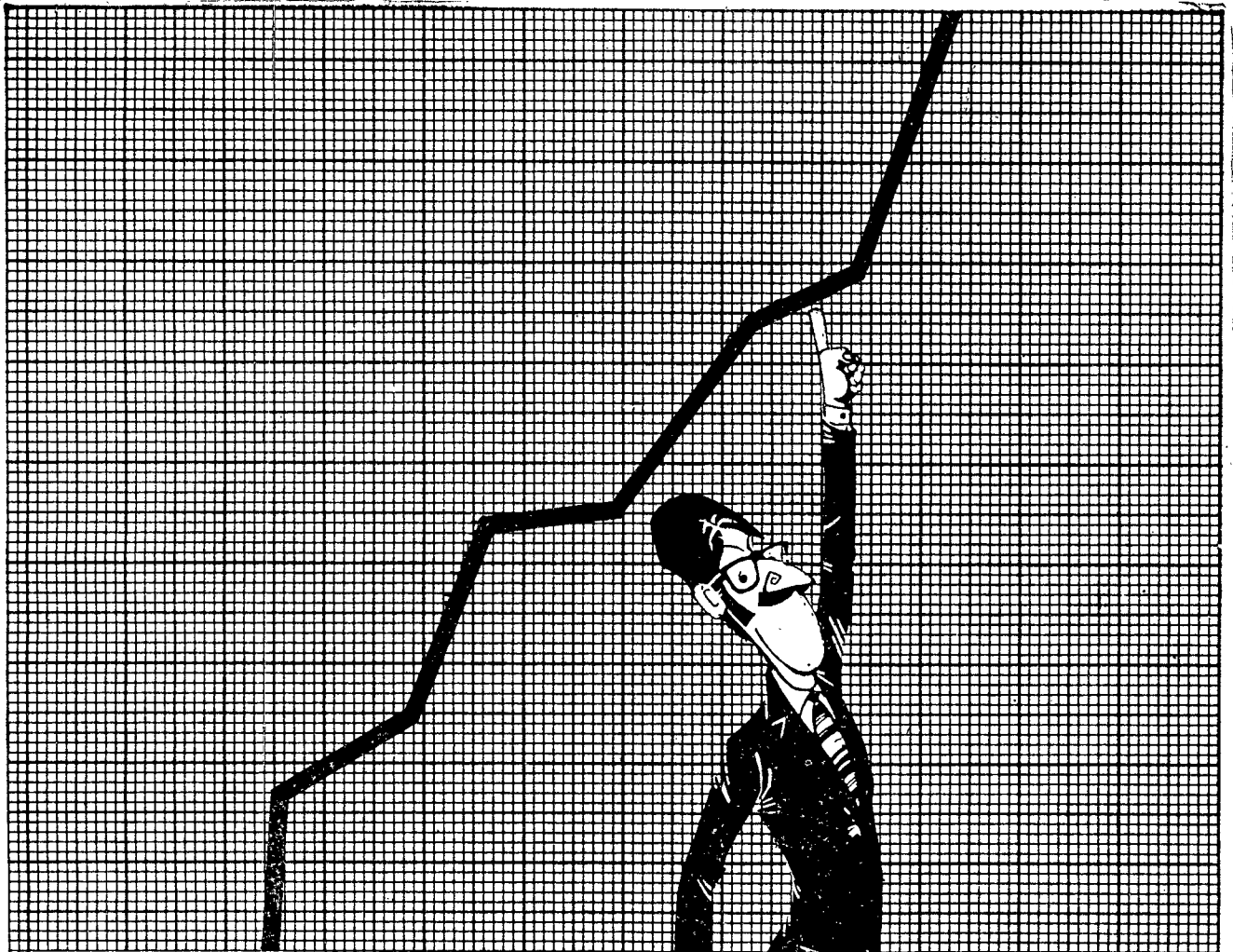
AHMEDABAD circle of the State Bank of India had sanctioned assistance for the disabled to the tune of Rs. 96 lakh till the end of 1980. It is also making sizeable grants this year. It has instituted endowment fund to enable vocational training institute, for the physically handicapped to expand their training facilities. This has been disclosed by the Chief General Manager of Ahmedabad Circle of the Bank, Mr. J.S. Varshneya, while giving away equipment and loans totalling Rs. 43,000 to 34 disabled persons at a nominal rate of interest of 4 per cent at a function in Rajkot recently. The function was organised by the branches of the State Bank of India at Rajkot as part of their observance of a special fortnight to focus the attention of the people on what the State Bank is doing for the handicapped during the International Year for the Disabled.

While calling upon the employers to offer suitable employment to the physically handicapped Mr. Varshneya said that the Bank had employed 44 physically handicapped persons in its branches in Gujarat. The Bank had been helping the neglected and down-trodden under the Innovative Banking Schemes. Nearly 47,000 socially and physically handicapped persons had been given a total of Rs. 4.41 crore in Gujarat alone. An assistance of Rs. 8.11 crore had been extended to about 35,000 beneficiaries under the 20-point Economic Programme in the State and another Rs. 3.5 crore had been earmarked for the purpose for the current year.



Shri J. S. Varshneya, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Ahmedabad Circle, seen giving a tricycle with equipment to a disabled person

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Facilities Provided by the Central Government for the Handicapped



Ministry of Home Affairs-Department of Personnel

STEPS taken by the Department of Personnel and A.R. to promote employment of physically handicapped persons under the Central Government:—

Even before the commencement of the International Year for the Disabled Persons, the Government of India decided in the year 1977 to reserve 3 per cent of vacancies in Group C and D posts under the Central Government for the physically handicapped persons. The reservation orders cover the blind, the deaf and the orthopaedically handicapped. A provision has also been made for carrying forward the reserved vacancies which may remain unfilled for a period upto three recruitment years.

The other concessions, given to the physically handicapped persons to facilitate their employment under the Central Government, include the relaxation of the upper age limit upto 10 years.

It has been stressed on the various Ministries/Departments that there should be no administrative delays in confirmation of blind persons in their jobs.

In order to help the Ministries in appointing physically handicapped persons an illustrative list of jobs in Group C and D posts which were found to be suitable for each of the categories of the handicapped persons has been circulated.

In addition, the work of recaning of chairs in Government of India Offices is to be entrusted to the blind persons as far as possible, and where the volume of work justifies full-time chair recaner, creation of regular post is to be considered.

In order to help Government servants discharged or to be discharged on being declared medically unfit on account of injury or a physical handicap suffered during service, orders have been issued that such a Group C and D officer, wherever practicable, be considered for another identical/equivalent post for which he may be found suitable against direct recruitment quota without insisting on the condition of appointment through the employment exchange/SSC.

Further, in the case of a Government servant retired on medical ground, his son/daughter/near relative can be considered for appointment on compassionate ground if the family of the Government servant is in great distress after his pre-mature retirement.

Railways

THE facilities of rail travel concession are admissible to all categories of orthopaedically handicapped persons, whether suffering from loss of function of the lower half or upper half of the body subject to their producing a certificate to the station master concerned from an orthopaedic surgeon or Government Doctor to the effect that the person is orthopaedically handi-

capped and that he cannot travel without an escort. The element of concession allowed prior to 1-4-1981 was 15 per cent below the basic fares for the patient and the escort separately in the case of first class and one single journey second class mail fare for the patient in the case of second class without charging any fare for the escort. With effect from 1-4-1981 the element of concession has been enhanced to 75 per cent. This concession is not admissible to the orthopaedically handicapped persons when travelling alone.

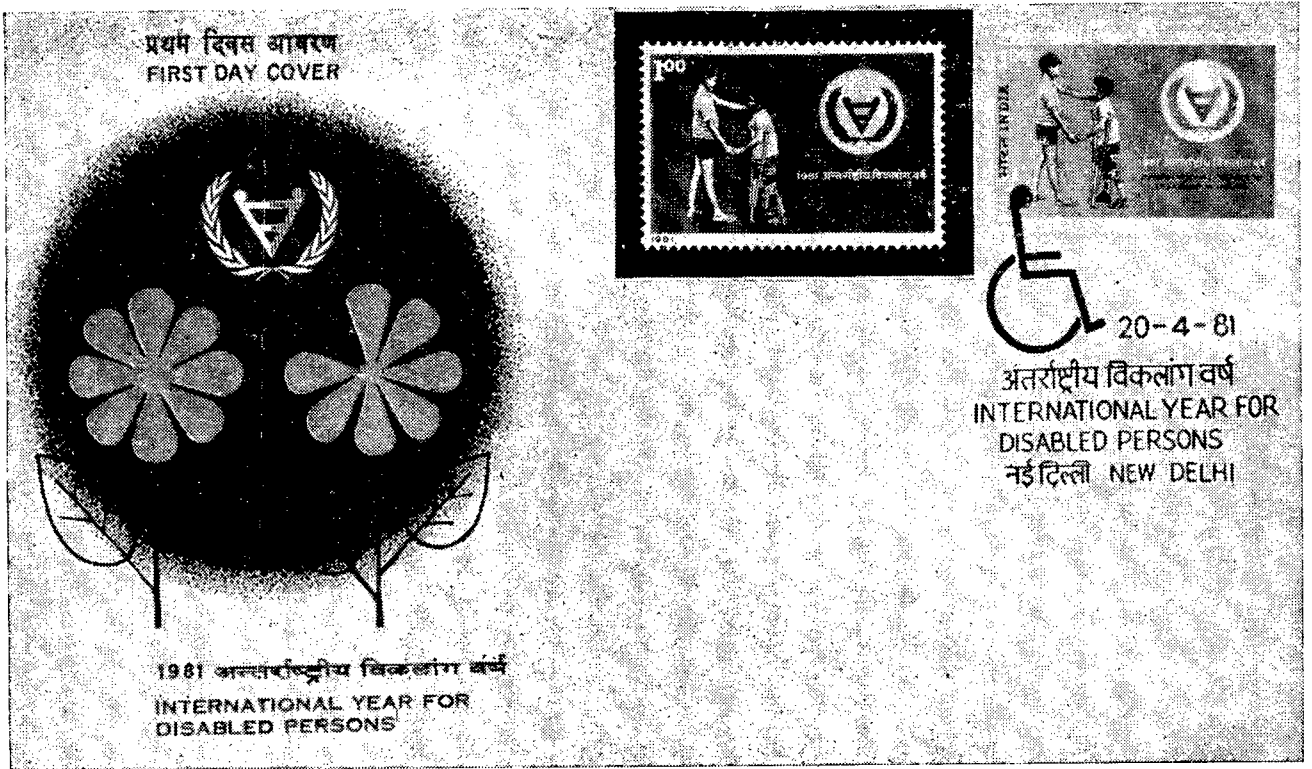
Blind persons travelling alone or accompanied by an escort are also entitled to rail travel concession for all journeys. The element of concession prior to 1-4-81 when travelling alone was 3/4 of the fare due in the class of travel and one single journey fare when accompanied by an escort. With effect from 1-4-81 the element of concession has been raised to 75 per cent in both first and second classes. This concession is admissible to both the patient and the escort accompanying him.

The facility of rail travel concession is also allowed to T.B. and cancer patients for treatment. The element of concession in both these cases prior to 1-4-81 was 75 per cent in the first and second classes and when travelling with an escort they had to pay one single journey fare for the patient only and the escort was allowed free. From 1-4-81 the element of concessions has been raised to 75 per cent in both first and second classes. This concession is admissible to both the patient and the escort accompanying him.

Non-infectious leprosy patients are also entitled to rail travel concession for treatment. The element of concession prior to 1-4-81 was 15 per cent in first class and 75 per cent in mail/express fare in second class. From 1-4-81 the element of concession has been raised to 75 per cent both in first and second classes. Concession to escort is not permissible.

Children's Push Chairs, wheel chairs and perambulators, collapsible or non-collapsible belonging to all categories of orthopaedically handicapped persons when taken in the same compartment by which the owners are travelling in all classes of accommodation are carried free.

Since in the Railways the physically handicapped persons cannot be appointed on most of the categories because of safety consideration, it has been decided that 15 per cent instead of 3 per cent of the vacancies in the notified categories should be reserved exclusively for handicapped persons. The various categories in which physically handicapped persons can be employed have already been notified to the Railway Administrations. During IYDP, over 909 persons have been employed on the Railways so far.



A Special stamp and first day cover issued by P & T on the occasion of IYDP

P & T Measures for Disabled Persons

THE Posts and Telegraphs Department has decided to offer scholarships to over 100 disabled children of its employees during this year for the physically disabled persons. The value of scholarships for the education and training of handicapped and mentally retarded children will be at Rs. 20 per month for a period not exceeding 4-5 years.

The scholarships are for both technical and non-technical studies. These are in addition to the scholarships offered by the Department to the children of its employees. In addition to the scholarships, the handicapped children, who are not able to walk themselves, will also get Rs. 20 a month as transport charges.

It was decided by the Department that three per cent of the vacancies would be filled equally by the blind, deaf and orthopaedically handicapped. If there are no reserved vacancies in any particular year the backlog will be cleared later. The posts reserved for the handicapped include clerks, sorters, liftmen, draughtsmen, gestetner operators and telephone operators.

The Department has also taken a decision to open public call offices at important railway stations, bus terminals, public parks etc., which would essentially be manned by physically handicapped persons. It was proposed to open 200 such public call offices throughout the country. Out of the tariffs that are to be charged at the rate of 50 paise for a local call from the public, the physically handicapped would be paying to the Department at the rate of 30 paise per call. The Department will provide the necessary equipments like PCO booths, cash chests, telephone instrument etc. The Department is making all out efforts to open the 200 PCOs before the end of this year.

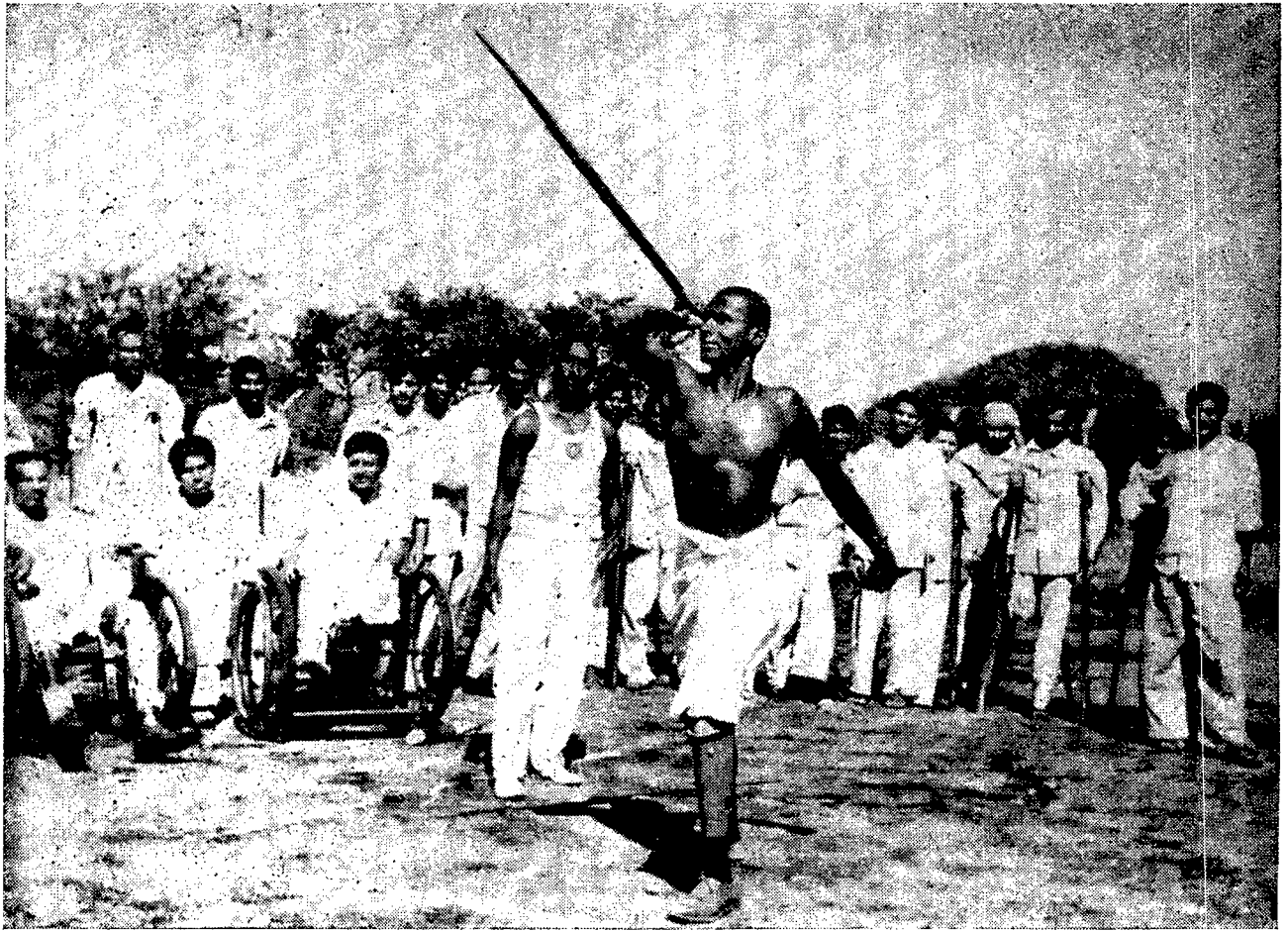
The Department has issued a special stamp on April 20, 1981 to mark the International Year for the disabled persons. Printed in blue and black colours the Re. 1 stamp was designed by Shri K. N. Raha. □

Central Board of Direct Taxes

TWO sections of the I.T. Act, 1961, namely, Section 80-U and 80-D specifically deal with certain reliefs in the cases of physically handicapped persons.

Section 80-U provides for a deduction of Rs. 10,000 from the total income if a person is either blind or is suffering from a permanent physical disability which has the effect of reducing substantially his capacity to engage in a gainful employment or occupation. However, such deduction is allowed only if the person during his first assessment produces a certificate from the prescribed Medical Practitioner as a proof of his blindness or permanent physical disability.

Section 80-D provides for deductions to a person if he has spent any amount on a relative or a member of the HUT wholly dependent on him or who is suffering from physical and mental disability as certified by Registered Medical Practitioner. This deduction is allowed if a person is hospitalised for more than 180 days or more to the extent of Rs. 2400 and in other cases to Rs. 600. Even this relief has to be reduced by an amount equal to the income, if any, of the handicapped dependent in respect of that year. If expenditure is incurred for more than one handicapped dependent the deduction is allowed only in respect of one such handicapped person as may be chosen by the assessee. □



Disabled Jawan with artificial limbs participating in javelin throw event.

Broken but not Beaten

The Disabled Defence Personnel

H. N. Balvir*

THE amount of care that the government takes of the disabled defence service personnel and the concern it shows for their rehabilitation in civil life is not only a measure of the nation's regard for them but also has a direct bearing on the morale of the Armed Forces.

During peace-time some servicemen are invalidated out of service every year on account of physical disability. The extent of their disability varies from the loss of hearing to amputation of limbs or paralysis of spine.

All disabled service personnel are given the best possible free treatment in military hospitals and, if necessary, are sent to civil hospitals like All India Institute of Medical Sciences at New Delhi for specialised treatment. For the entire period of their stay at the hospital, all other ranks (jawans, NCOs, etc.) and JCOs are treated as 'on duty' which means that they

continue to draw their full pay and allowances. In the case of Commissioned Officers, this concession is for a stay upto six months.

Where amputation becomes necessary ex-servicemen are fitted with artificial limbs free of cost at the Artificial Limb Centre, Pune. Those who need appliances like hearing aids, etc. are also provided with these free of cost. Repairs to artificial limbs or their replacement is done at government expense. Further, disabled ex-servicemen re-employed in a defence establishment are given 15 days special leave to get the limb refitted when required.

Vocational Training

On completing their treatment, the disabled personnel are given vocational training at various industrial and technical institutions in the country. Rehabilitation training is also provided at the Queen Mary's Technical School, Kirkee, Maharashtra, in different trades such as turner, watch-repairer, machinist, knitter, dyer, printer and weaver to enable them to earn

*Director, Defence Publicity

their livelihood. The school which is recognised for industrial training courses, can accommodate 100 disabled ex-servicemen at a time. During the training period these personnel are paid a stipend of Rs. 150 per month. In addition, several State Governments give financial assistance of Rs. 50 per month to their families. Over 6,000 persons have been trained and gainfully employed since the setting up of this school.

Paraplegic and tetraplegic ex-servicemen whose families, in the absence of requisite facilities at home, cannot take care of them are admitted in the paraplegic homes at Mohali (Punjab) and Kirkee (Maharashtra). The two homes are equipped with modern facilities and the inmates are very well looked after.

Those with severe disability are given disability pension. They and their dependents can seek grants also, if need arises, from funds like the 'Armed Forces Benevolent Fund' and the 'War-bereaved and Disabled Servicemen's Special Relief Fund' for their resettlement and welfare.

Ex-servicemen blinded in war or warlike operations receive rehabilitation training at the National Institute for the Blind at Dehradun.

They, besides the pension, receive a monthly grant of Rs. 30 from the Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Air-

men's Board Fund. Also, additional financial help is available to them, when necessary, from a trust known as 'The Indian St. Dunston's Committee for the War-blinded'.

Employment

The government wants the disabled to become economically self-supporting and, therefore, gives them the highest priority for appointment against vacancies reserved for ex-servicemen in its offices, in nationalised banks and in public sector undertakings. They are exempted from medical examination and are given age relaxation upto 45 years (50 years in the case of SC and ST ex-servicemen). Also, a special Cell has been created in the Ministry of Labour to ensure their speedy placement in civil jobs.

Ex-servicemen who, in view of their disability, are unfit for a civil job, their dependents, upto two, are given priority over other candidates for the general vacancies. In the public sector undertakings 4½ per cent of vacancies in group 'C' and 'D' posts are specifically reserved for disabled ex-servicemen, their dependents and the dependents of those who are killed in war. □



Disabled Jawan with artificial hand (left) looks normal when dressed up (right) and carries on with his civilian job.

Disabled ex-servicemen are allotted agencies for various items such as gas, fertilizers, cement, etc. to help them resettle in civil life. The Indian Oil Corporation has allotted a number of petrol pumps, gas/kerosene agencies to them in different parts of the country. Some large bakeries, cold drink bottlers and cigarette manufacturers, have built kiosks for them to sell their products. Today, such 370 'Jai Jawan' stalls exist in the country and more and more are coming up every year. The Directorate General of Resettlement in the Ministry of Defence also assists the disabled in securing business loans from banks at differential rate of interest.

The resettlement of disabled ex-servicemen is a national obligation which can be discharged only with the co-operation of all agencies, both public and private, in the country. This cooperation one can hope, would be readily extended by all.

Department of Atomic Energy

A Liaison Officer at the level of Joint Secretary has been nominated in the Department of Atomic Energy to look after the appointment of handicapped persons in the Department. The steps to be taken in this regard were finalised in a meeting of the Heads of Units held in July 1980 and follow-up measures are being taken regularly. Job identification has been completed in all Units with the assistance of Government/Voluntary agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, National Association for the Blind, Special Employment Exchange for Physically Handicapped, Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped and National Society for Equal Opportunities for the Handicapped.

The level of recruitment of physically handicapped persons by the Units against the reserved vacancies is being monitored through quarterly progress reports, in the proforma prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The total number of physically handicapped persons, category-wise working in the Department and Public Sector Undertakings under its administrative control is given below :—Blind : 30, Deaf and Dumb : 46, Orthopaedically handicapped : 150.

Ministry of Works and Housing

THE Ministry of Works and Housing has reserved 3 per cent vacancies in Group C and D for blind/deaf and dumb/orthopaedically handicapped persons and every effort is being made to recruit such disabled persons through Special Employment Exchanges. The information gathered from various organisations under the Ministry has revealed that quite a good number of such disabled persons are working at present in these organisations.

Facilities like out-of-turn allotment of general pool accommodation to blind/deaf and dumb/physically handicapped persons are given by the Directorate of Estates. The applications of such persons are scrutinised by a Special Accommodation Committee which comprises Joint Secretary (Admn.), Ministry of Works and Housing, Joint Secretary (Health), Joint Secretary (Department of Personnel), Joint Secretary, (Finance), T.B. Specialist and Head of Department of Orthopaedic, (Maulana Azad Medical College).

The cases are submitted to the Housing Minister for final approval after obtaining their recommendation of Special Accommodation Committee. During the last four year (1977—1980), 131 Government quarters have been allotted to them on out-of-turn basis. During 1981, the Special Accommodation Committee has, so far, recommended allotment to another 20 handicapped employees and these were approved by the Minister.

Some of the markets in Delhi/New Delhi are also under the administrative control of the Directorate of Estates. Shops in these markets are allotted on open tender basis. There is no reservation of shops to the physically handicapped persons but individual cases are examined on merit. Four shops have so far been allotted to physically handicapped persons.

Deptt of Textiles

IN the Department of Textiles (Ministry of Commerce), including its attached and subordinate offices and undertakings, the number of persons employed so far is as follows : blind 221, deaf and dumb 151, orthopaedically handicapped 625. Most of these persons are working with the National Textiles Corporation. In the offices where there are no regular and suitable vacancies, disabled persons are employed (the blind for caning chairs and the deaf for typing etc.) as far as possible. □

Handicapped Stands First in B.A.

A handicapped student who writes with his toes, has secured first division in the B.A. final examination of Ravishankar University, Raipur.

Twentyone year old Samir Kumar Ghosh has been using his toes for writing ever since he lost his hands in an accident 12 years ago. □

The Torch Bearer

THE Headmaster of Ashram High School, Kamsar, Shri Bhakta Prasad Nanda, is a friend, philosopher and guide for the poor, innocent and ignorant Adivasis of Kamsar, a small village of Sambalpur District in Orissa.

Born in 1943 and educated in Sambalpur town, B.A. B.Ed., Shri Nanda took up teaching profession in Tribal Area schools to fulfil his mission of enlightening these poor masses. To keep himself free from Family encumbrances he never wanted to marry. But he was prevailed upon to marry and he married Nirupama, a well qualified girl, an expert in culinary art and tailoring and embroidery works but deaf and dumb. He did not take any dowry. He did not succumb to the advice given by friends and relatives that his children might be deaf and dumb. His two children (a boy and a girl) both are normal and he leads a contented life. He is training his wife how to speak.

Digambar Satpathy
Field and Publicity Officer
Sambalpur

Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation

THE question of reservation in services and posts in D.G.C.A. suitable for handicapped persons has been under consideration. In a meeting held on 25-3-1981 in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, it was decided that introduction of reservation system for the posts of Aeronautical Engineers, Mechanical Engineers and Telecommunication Engineers, may be considered. Action to amend the relevant Recruitment Rules is proposed to be taken in hand shortly.

Indian Airlines

Scholarship Scheme : Under the IA Scholarship scheme, employees' wards securing 60 per cent and above marks are granted educational scholarship ranging between Rs. 150 to Rs. 540 depending upon the class in which he is studying. However, the wards who belong to the category of blind|deaf|dumb or orthopaedically handicapped are given educational scholarship on the merit of each case without any condition.

Contributory Family Medical Scheme for Families of employees : The dependent children of the employees pursuing full-time course of study shall be

covered under the Contributory Family Medical Scheme upto the age of 30 years. There is no age limit for the deaf|dumb|mentally retarded dependent children.

Employment : As per Government instructions, one per cent posts are reserved for the deaf|dumb and orthopaedically handicapped children.

For the Handicapped by the Handicapped

SHRI Joginder Chhatra Paul, himself a polio victim, has recently set up a Viklang Chhatra Trust at Akhnoor (J & K). Shri Paul is working in AIR, Jammu and is an eminent writer. He has established the trust with his 10 years' savings and some contribution from his family. So far the Viklang Chhatra Trust has organised free an eye camp where about 150 cataract operations were carried out and about 1600 patients suffering from eye ailments were cured. More than fifty disabled students have been given free books, uniforms and other aids. Shri Paul has taken a vow to fight for the disabled and settle them properly. □

V. K. Magotra,
Field Publicity Officer,
Jammu.

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Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation—a Rs. 500 crore dedication to the farmers, — geared to produce more than one million tonnes of fertilizer annually in the form of Ammonium Sulphate, Urea and complex fertilizers. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation came into existence in April 1978. The Corporation has three Units at Namrup (Assam), Durgapur (West-Bengal) and Barauni (Bihar). Besides, a project at Haldia (West-Bengal) is in an advanced stage of completion. On completion of the Haldia project HFC will also be producing Methanol and Soda Ash, two important basic chemicals for the industry.

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Massive Survey of the Disabled

DURING the 36th round of the survey operations (July—December 1981), the National Sample Survey Organisation, Ministry of Planning will conduct a large scale sample survey of "Disabled Persons". The proposed survey is suitably designed to throw information on the magnitude of the problem of the disability, probable causes thereof, the extent of facilities available for medical rehabilitation and the gaps as felt by the sufferers. Information would be collected on visual, communication and locomotor disabilities which manifest if a person is blind, deaf, dumb or orthopaedically handicapped. In addition, it is proposed to collect some information on social adaptation, developmental milestones and behaviour of children in the age group of 5 to 14. The survey would cover both the rural and urban areas of the country.

Disability in the context of health experience will be defined in the survey as "any restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in the manner within the range considered normal for a human being". This

is characterised by deficiencies of customarily expected activity performance and behaviour. The disability may be temporary or permanent, reversible or irreversible, progressive or regressive, and may arise as a direct consequence of any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or as a response by an individual particularly psychologically, to a physical and sensory loss or abnormality. While deciding on the disability, the question of curability or otherwise will not be considered. The disability to be covered under the survey is to be distinguished from morbidity. Morbidity covers cases of illness or injury of recent origin, which have not resulted in the loss of ability to see, hear, speak or move with or without the help of aids and this will be outside the purview of the Survey.

This survey will be conducted in about 6000 villages and 4000 urban blocks spread over the whole country. In all about 1.2 million households will be contacted for information on disabilities. Simultaneously the State Governments will participate in the conduct of this survey through the State Statistical Bureaus and will cover another sample of the same size.

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Disability—Prevention and Cure

Arun Shome*

THE International Year of Disabled Persons marks the intensification of a countrywide effort to increase awareness of what needs to be done for the handicapped people in various walks of life. The problems of the handicapped, including orthopaedically handicapped, mentally retarded and those suffering from leprosy and blindness, have been receiving increasing attention of the Government during the last few years. Both the Government and voluntary organisations are trying their best to provide to the handicapped people all opportunities for their full and equal participation in our national life.

Rehabilitation of handicapped persons should be the concern of all. But far more important is to ensure that people do not become handicapped. The Government is trying through various schemes to ensure healthy life for all, to save children from becoming disabled following illnesses like polio, paralysis, chronic lung diseases, leprosy, deafness, blindness and stunted growth. The Central Government has sponsored an expanded immunisation programme. Under this programme, launched in January, 1978, vaccines are made freely available against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, tuberculosis and typhoid fever. The programme is a long-term one and is being implemented through existing health delivery systems like Primary Health Centres and Sub-centres in the rural areas and hospitals and dispensaries and Maternal and Child Health Centres in the urban areas.

During 1980-81 (upto the end of August, 1980), 15.60 lakh pregnant women were given two doses of tetanus toxoid. The number of children below two years who received three doses of DPT and polio vaccinations were 18.06 lakhs and 3.56 lakh respectively. BCG vaccination has been given to about 42 lakh children and two doses of typhoid vaccine to 3.22 lakh primary school children during the same period. Tetanus toxoid vaccination programme was extended to school children between 10 and 16 years in 1980-81. Measles vaccine was supplied to selected medical colleges in the country.

Sentinel units are being identified to study the trend of the disease incidence. Sample surveys have been completed in Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab and are in progress in U.P. and Rajasthan. Preliminary work to start the survey has been done in Maharashtra,

Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Upto the end of November, 1980, 18 vaccination coverage surveys were carried out in different States and Union Territories to obtain objective data on the vaccination coverage of children between 1 and 2 years of age.

A pilot project on measles immunisation feasibility study was started in March, 1980. The objective of the study is to find out the seriousness of measles as a public health problem and the need for introducing measles vaccine in the routine immunisation service.

Maternal and Child Health Services provided under the Health and Family Welfare Programme are gaining in popularity. This is reflected in the swelling number of parents availing of these facilities in all parts of the country. It also indicates that the people are becoming more and more aware about the utility of providing timely protection to their children against known health hazards. Similar trend can be discerned in the growing popularity of the services provided to pregnant women for safe-guarding their own health and the health of the child to be born. This will bring down infant mortality as well as physical disability of the new born babies.

Leprosy—A Scourge

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by a germ. It is one of the major public health problems in India. The disease spreads mainly through close contact with persons suffering from the disease in an infectious stage. The disease is protected in nature causing deformities if not detected early and treated.

The National Leprosy Control Programme was launched in the year 1955 by the Government of India, in close collaboration with the State Governments, to control the spread of the disease and to render modern treatment to leprosy patients. Upto 1968-69, the programme remained Centrally aided and from 1969-70 to 1978-79, it was operated as a 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Programme. Since 1979-80 it is being operated as Centrally Sponsored Programme but financing is shared between the States and Centre on 50 : 50 basis.

According to the 1971 census, about 372 million population in 29 States/Union territories lived in endemic zones of leprosy. Out of this, on the basis of data of leprosy infection then available, it was estimated that there were 3.2 million patients. About 25 per cent of these patients were estimated to be at infec-

tious stage and about 25 per cent were suffering from various deformities. It was also estimated that about four lakh patients were socio-economically dislocated and of these about two lakh had become beggars. Of the total persons affected by leprosy about 15 per cent were estimated to be children below 14 years of age. It is estimated that the present population of persons affected by leprosy may be about four million and that this is larger in proportion to the total number of leprosy affected persons of the world than India's share of world population.

The Government is now determined to eradicate leprosy in the coming 20 years. A working group has already been constituted to devise the action plan for this purpose.

Blindness

The problem of blindness is posing a serious public health, social and economic problem to the country. It is estimated that about 45 million people are suffering from visual impairment. Over nine million are blind, including about six million who can be cured by surgical treatment. A National Plan for Prevention of Visual Impairment and Control of Blindness including Trachoma Control was drawn up with the main objective of providing eye-health care services to the community with emphasis both on prevention and cure. The control strategy of the programme including (i) health education to the community; (ii) temporary measures to provide immediate and comprehensive eye health care by establishing mobile units in different parts of the country; and (iii) creation of permanent infrastructure for eye care in three-tier system of general health services.

By March 1981 a total of 45 fully equipped mobile units were functioning in different parts of the country and 1,600 Primary Health Centres were strengthened and equipped to treat eye ailments. In addition, 200 District Hospitals would be equipped, so as to start an eye unit in each District under the charge of a qualified eye specialist. Ophthalmology Departments

of 26 Medical Colleges would be developed as community ophthalmic centres to provide integrated eye health care services. The existing six Institutes of Ophthalmology will be assisted to achieve the status of Regional Institute. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Science in New Delhi is being developed as an apex organisation to guide in planning and implementation of the National Programme.

To effectively control blindness, the programme has to be extended and vigorously implemented. Nearly one million eye operations are needed to be performed every year, but the present capacity is only 0.6 million. And we have only 3,800 eye specialists and 2,000 eye assistants, at present. About 1200 to 1500 ophthalmologists and similar number of eye assistants are required to be trained every year. As against this the country has facilities for training 300 eye specialists and 100 eye assistants a year.

Deaf and Dumb

The Government is trying to step up preventive and curative measures to avoid the audio-vocal handicaps which have so far remained rather limited. Many voluntary organisations are doing creditable work in this field. The Central Government, however, wholly finances the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore. The Institute which is affiliated to the Mysore University, conducts B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph. D. courses in Speech and Hearing. It also collaborates with K. R. Hospital of Mysore and all major and minor surgeries are conducted at the hospital.

Miles to Go

Much is being done to prevent disability. But much more has to be done. The country must draw programmes for the prevention of other physical and mental disabilities. A programme of mental health for schools should be undertaken. The possibility of preventing consanguinous marriages which often lead to the birth of disabled children should be explored. Moreover, a few indepth studies of the incidence and prevalence of various disabilities should be carried out. □

Army Paraplegic Home

Lt. Col. Satish Mahindroo

IT was a sunny December morn during the Bangladesh operations. A young Armoured Corps Officer had just given orders for his troop of tanks to advance, when he decided to step out of the turret to reset an aerial. The driver was engaging gears to march when the officer felt a short, sharp, pain in the lower lumbar region. His hand went numb, his legs collapsed under him and he toppled off his tank on to the rice stubble below. The tanks marched off. He yelled and shouted but the tank tracks were louder. The scenario changes from Bangladesh to the Military Hospital, Pune, which has some of the world's best medical brains, equipped with diagnostics. The officer is flat on an adjustable bed. Besides him is his "legs"—a wheel chair. He can talk, smile, laugh, has clear eyes, clean strong teeth but is helpless below the waist. A very tiny silver from a distant burst had travelled alone, entered the skin at the back, neatly severed

the spinal cord and lodged in the epidemics. A tiny bit of metal that disconnected the brain from half the body, making a budding officer, a helpless paraplegic.

After Independence, our country has fought four major wars both with China and Pakistan. These wars have left behind quite a few paraplegics. A requirement, therefore, was felt to have some permanent accommodation where these paraplegics could be accommodated, fed and treated further without putting them through any harassment and embarrassment. For such paraplegics, two paraplegic homes, i.e., at Kirkee and Mohali, have been established under the control of the Army. At Kirkee, a 24-bedded Paraplegic Home started functioning from September 1974. The bed capacity was increased to 61, from 1979. It is being further increased to 100 beds. The other Paraplegic Home is at Mohali, to cater for the paraplegics hailing from the North. This Home started functioning

from December 1978, and its present capacity is 29 beds. It has been decided to expand this Home also to 50 beds. The capital cost of the Homes is met from the National Defence Fund, while the recurring expenditure to run the Homes is met from the Central Welfare Funds.

Paraplegia, is loss or impairment of voluntary muscle power of the legs and the lower part of the body. Quadraplegia is paralysis of all four limbs. It often involves loss of motion and sensation, that is, pain, heat, movement and even of location. Often the bowels and the bladder are also paralysed.

Paraplegia can be caused by disease or injury in the lower portion of the spinal cord, its peripheral nerves or by cerebral palsy, disorder of the brain. In the Army all the paraplegics, are so, due to injuries.

Need for Constant Care

Some such patients in the Military Hospital begin to lead institutionalised routines on crutches or wheel-chairs. A very few learn to be mobile in braces.

The basic problem with paraplegics as against other medical cases in their complete helplessness. Some

paraplegics cannot turn themselves over in their beds. As a result, domestic nursing however loving it may be, cannot in the long run be as efficient as professional care in a hospital or a home.

A serious paraplegic is most comfortable on a rubber bed over a fracture board, with heels, preferably placed in rings made of wool, with knees and ankles separated by a pad of cotton wool. The under sheets have to be crease-free. At times an air ring is to be used under the hip. To prevent chafing the patient has to be periodically turned over, slightly. If this is not done the epidermis rubs off. All the pressure points, have to be washed frequently every day. The entire skin has to be washed, massaged with eau-de-Cologne and dusted with zinc-oxide powder. Patients often have incontinence of urine and faeces and the resultant wetting has to be prevented. Often the bladder has to be catheterized sometimes by an indwelling catheter.

The reason for itemising these details of nursing, is to convey the necessity of a Paraplegic Home vis-a-vis nursing done at home, by ones loved ones, as is preferable in other diseases. □

For Him Disability is not Inability

SOME people believe that disability is something God-given and has to be lived with as part of the divine law of retribution or Karma. But this has been belied by the heroic achievements of Shri Ambalapady Ramamoorthy Ballal now working as a stenographer at the office of the Fellowship of Physically Handicapped (FPH), Bombay. Perhaps he is the first man in India who does stenography with one hand—and that too with left hand—after having lost his right arm in an accident.

A recipient of the National Award for the best physically handicapped worker from the former President, Shri V. V. Giri, in 1974, Ballal was born in a farmer's family of Ambalapady village in South Kanara District of Karnataka on 1st June, 1934. Being a restless child he took keen interest in games from childhood. At the age of eight his right elbow was dislocated, when he fell from a tree while playing "Gida Mangya" (tree and monkey) game. Though an ordinary dislocation it led to a septic of the joint because of the wrong treatment by village quacks and the resultant amputation of the right arm.

This misfortune did not dampen the enthusiasm of this brilliant and ambitious child. He continued his studies after two years by learning to write all over again with his left hand. In 1952 Ballal passed his Matriculation Examination of Madras University from the Christ Christian High School, Udipi, by securing 53 per cent marks—a feat for a disabled student writing with left hand.

Despite his handicap he sustained his interest in sports. He won a number of prizes and medals in athletics and games in High School. He was adjudged No. 1 in long jump and high jump and No. 2 in 100 metre race. At the First National Games and Sports for Disabled conducted by the Armed Force Artificial Limb and Rehabilitation Centre, Poona, in 1962 he stood second in high jump and received the

shield from the then Defence Minister Shri V. K. Krishna Menon.

Ballal wanted to be a teacher, but his disability came in the way of his modest ambition. At the time of selection for the Secondary Teachers' Training Course he was declared physically unfit. Being oblivious of the fact that the mind and the body are two different things the Selection committee measured his mental ability with the yardstick of his physical limitations. But this in turn proved to be a blessing in disguise. He began learning typewriting in a commercial school. His inventive genius evolved for himself a new method of one hand typing with touch system. He passed the Government Technical Examination of Madras with 25 words per minute in typing. After moving to Bombay he passed the Maharashtra Government's Commercial Certificate Examination in typewriting in 1963 with 40 words per minute and was placed in 'A' grade. This was followed by passing of the Commercial Certificate Examination of Maharashtra Government in Shorthand with a speed of 80 words per minute. He took all these examinations as a private candidate along with the able-bodied candidates. Ballal's competitive spirit was greatly appreciated by the Inspector of Commercial Schools, Maharashtra as he claimed no weightage on the basis of his disability. His ambition is to reach the highest position that his profession can bring him. This should serve as an inspiration to other handicapped persons.

Ballal is happily married to an able-bodied lady and has four sons. His hobbies include stamp collecting gardening and bee-keeping. His is a devoted permanent employee of the FPH and has rejected a number of lucrative employment offers from other employers. The founder President of the FPH, Mrs. Fathema Ismail has described him as "a pillar of strength" to her organisation. □

(Social Welfare)



Sister Marie Therese

Cheshire Home, An Abode of Love

Col. Prithvi Nath

SISTER Marie Therese is from Spain and belongs to the Society of Christ Jesus. She has spent 17 years in this country of which 12 were with Cheshire Home, Bombay. She shows me handicrafts made by the inmates of the home. These handicrafts were exhibited during the handicrafts exhibition at Cheshire Home, Delhi, on the occasion of their Red Feather Day on April 26, 1981. 'What is the reward?' I ask. 'The privilege to serve', is her answer. There cannot be a better service to the humanity and the people than looking after those who have lost all hope.

Cheshire Homes were founded by Leonard Cheshire in 1948 and today they are a world-wide organisation looking after the incurably sick and physically handicapped for whom hospitals can do nothing. The aim of each home is to give a home for life to those who are disabled, to live on their own, home in which each resident can feel truly at home and have the opportunity in his or her way to contribute to the society. Disabled persons are

admitted according to their need, irrespective of race, creed or social status and the residents enjoy the freedom of religious thought. Cheshire Homes are functioning in 36 countries with a total of 190 homes. The United Kingdom has the largest number of homes and India comes next with 19 homes. Each home is run by a local committee which is autonomous and it is the responsibility of the local committee to raise funds to run the home.

The Army is closely linked with the Cheshire Homes and provides maximum assistance in their running. Maj Gen Virender Singh (Retd), Chairman, Cheshire Homes Eastern Region and Chairman of the Delhi Cheshire Home is a dedicated person who has given his entire life to the alleviation of the suffering of those whose life is a long dark night. National Cadet Corps is also actively associated with the Cheshire Homes.

General Malhotra, the former Chief of the Army Staff who spoke at the April 26 function said that he would devote a greater time to this noble institution after his retirement. The Army also runs paraplegic homes for the Jawans at Chandigarh and Pune where similar dedication brings hope to those whose legs have been paralysed. Mrs. Saroj Malhotra, President of Army Wives, Welfare Association presented a cheque for Rs. 10,000 to the Cheshire Homes on that occasion. The Cheshire Homes have done a lot in serving the disabled and chronically sick from mental disintegration and society's rejection. We hope that Cheshire Movement will further



Each inmate feels truly at home in Cheshire Home

expand bringing hope to the millions who are unfortunate. The work done by the dedicated workers

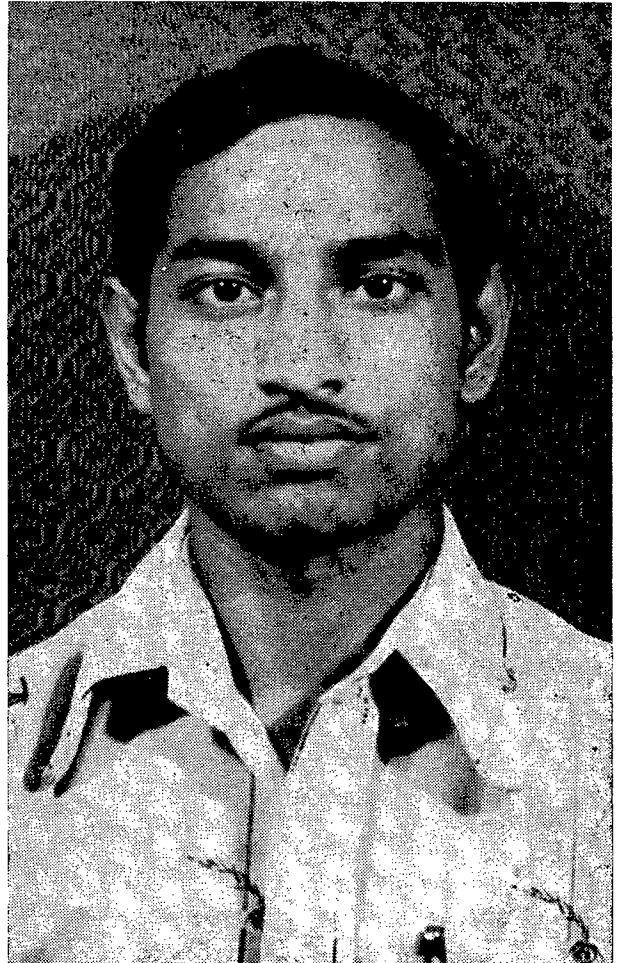
in Cheshire Homes is a shining example of compassion and concern for the physically handicapped.

The Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bangalore

THE Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, which is specialising in different branches of Astrophysics, has been able to locate a physically handicapped person with a Degree in M.Sc. Mathematics and has employed him as Research Assistant in the scale of Pay of Rs. 425-15-500-EB-15-560-20-700. It has also employed an orthopaedically handicapped person in the publication division as Laboratory Assistant. He is getting acquainted with the technical work involved in this particular field. The Institute is keen on locating more suitable physically handicapped persons for providing employment and opportunities for the development of their talents in this very specialised branch of science.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, has employed two blind, one deaf-and-dumb and

Shri A. S. Kamble, Office Attendant

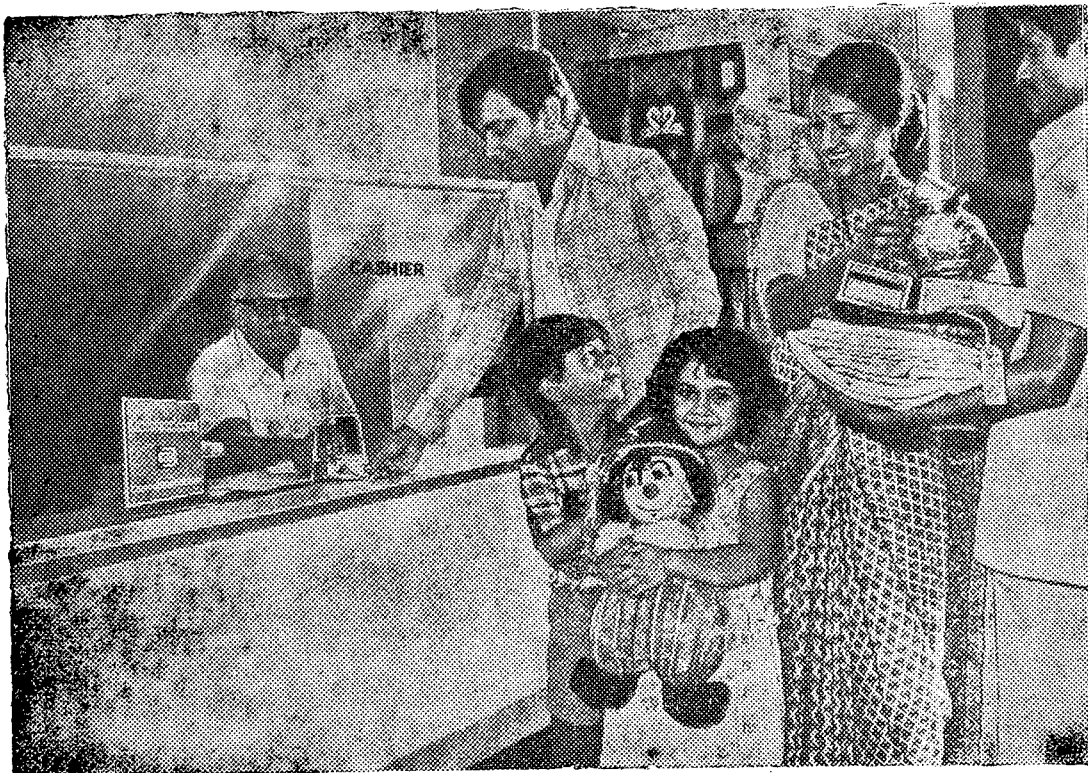


Shri D. K. Gupta, Laboratory Attendant

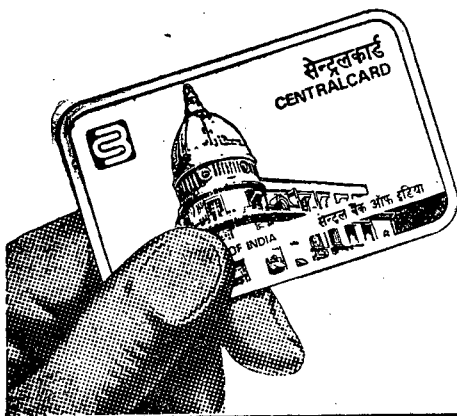
two orthopaedically handicapped persons in its Group 'C' and 'D' posts.

The Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Bombay has taken a keen interest to rehabilitate disabled persons to the extent possible. Being a small institution devoted to advanced research in Geomagnetism with a total of 160 posts in all, the scope for filling up vacant posts has been quite limited. Keeping in view the spirit of the Government instructions it has filled up three posts since 1981, by handicapped people. The details of persons employed and the type of work assigned to them are as follows : Shri D. K. Gupta, Laboratory Attendant (Limbs affected by polio) Shri A. S. Kamble, Office Attendant (Partially blind) and Shri Devidas Tulsiramji Malwa, Junior Scientific Assistant (handicapped joints), Efforts are being continued to have more disabled people employed in suitable posts.

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Facilities Provided by the State Governments for the Handicapped



Karnataka

THE Karnataka Government has taken up several measures for the welfare of the disabled. Four residential school for the blind, three residential schools for the deaf, one aftercare home for the mentally retarded women and one institute for the mentally retarded boys are being run by the Government of Karnataka. There are schools for the blind in Mysore, Hubli, Gulbarga, Davanagere and for the deaf in Mysore, Gulbarga and Belgaum. There are two institutions for the mentally retarded in Bangalore.

In the schools for the deaf and blind children, education upto VII standard and vocational training in cane work, needle work, sewing, knitting, carpentry, weaving are given. Music is also taught to the blind students. Schools for the deaf and blind children, Mysore is a high school having standards upto X. It is a co-educational institution. The X standard pupils appear for the SSLC examination conducted by the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board along with the normal students. Besides this, the blind pupils appear for the music examination, i.e. junior, senior and Vidwath, conducted by the same Board along with the sighted counterparts. With the certificates in music and SSLC, most of the blind persons have become music teachers in the schools for the sighted.

There is a braille press attached to the School for Deaf and Blind Children, Mysore. There is a craft training centre for the deaf and blind persons which gives training in cane and bamboo work for 10 months on stipend of Rs. 40 per month per trainee. Provision is there for 40 trainees.

The salaried or wage earning blind persons are exempted from paying the professional tax.

Free travel in cities and 50 per cent concession in mofusil areas are given to the blind persons when they travel in Government-owned buses.

Two per cent of direct recruitment vacancies are reserved for the appointment of physically handicapped persons in case of Class III and IV posts.

There are about 30 institutions all over Karnataka State which have education, training and rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. They get the financial assistance from the Government to run the institutions. During the year 1979-80, Rs. 6,42,255 have been spent on this account.

Reservation of stalls in the Municipal markets has been provided for the disabled persons.

Karnataka Association for the Blind, Bangalore, gives training in cane work, card board box and envelope making, file making etc.

The National Association for the Blind (Karnataka Branch) Bangalore has taken up the employment and

placement work of the blind, the project of self-employment for the blind and has secured the job of recaning of the chairs by the blind. It has a full time trained employment officer on the staff. It has also provided the in-plant training facility for the blind in factories.

Ramana Maharshi Academy for the Blind, Bangalore, is implementing vocational rehabilitation programme for the blind, in addition to educational programme.

Association for the mentally retarded, Byrasandra, Bangalore, is having multi-category workshop for mentally retarded with candle making, weaving, carpentry and sewing.

Financial assistance is given for the purpose of hearing aids, motorised tricycles, artificial limbs, calipers etc. If the income of the family is Rs. 6,000 and below, 100 per cent assistance is given. If the family income is between Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 12,000, 75 per cent assistance is given.

Physically handicapped students studying in Standards I to VIII and those who are undergoing training in music, physiotherapy, photography, drawing, painting and fine arts and whose family income to not exceed Rs. 10,000 per annum get State Government scholarship. In addition to this, blind students get reader's allowance and Orthopaedically handicapped persons get transportation allowance.

During the year 1979-80, 2209 Orthopaedically handicapped, 144 blind and 250 deaf pupils got the benefits of Rs. 10,27,429. In addition to the above Children and Women's Welfare Dept. is implementing the scheme of Government of India Scholarship to the Physically Handicapped Students studying in IX standard and above.

The Tahsildars of the respective taluks sanction the Maintenance allowances of Rs. 40 per month per head to the disabled persons whose family income does not exceed Rs. 3600 per annum. Under this scheme, 14,156 persons got the assistance to the tune of Rs. 89,15,087.

Physically handicapped and mentally retarded persons above 15 years of age are housed category-wise and given medical care and training, in addition to maintenance.

Orthopaedically handicapped and blind Government employees get 5 per cent of their basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 40 as conveyance allowance.

Association for the Physically Handicapped, Hennur Road, Bangalore, is having a training centre for the orthopaedically handicapped and train them as draftsmen welders, fitters and turners.

Dakshina Bharat Mahila Sangham, Bangalore, gives training in cane work and weaving to blind ladies.

Association for the Physically Handicapped, Belgaum, is running a book binding and paper cutting unit.

All the above mentioned institutions are run with grant-in-aid from Government.

In addition, the Government School for the Deaf and Blind, Mysore, has vocational training programme in cane work and bamboo work, both for the deaf and blind trainees and there is a sheltered workshop with handloom weaving for the deaf and blind workers.

The Navajyothi Trust, Bangalore, is running the training centre as well as sheltered workshop for the mentally retarded boys.

Manipur

ALL departments and organisations working for the welfare of the handicapped in Manipur are working for the effective implementation of the IYDP schemes contained in the State Plan of Action. According to the Census, the handicapped population of Manipur State was 2213 of which 644 were blind, 709 crippled and 860 deaf and dumb respectively. The Government of Manipur is trying to help these persons.

To mark the inauguration of the IYDP in Manipur a special function was organised on 1-1-81 at Imphal with 1000 handicapped persons. An exhibition was also arranged. The Chief Minister was the chief guest and prizes were distributed to the winners in the exhibition as well as to the handicapped persons. Besides this, the Chief Minister gave Rs. 100 each to the participants from his discretionary fund. Hoardings were placed at conspicuous places to make the people aware of the disabled persons. Newspaper advertisements were also released.

During a function held at the Deaf and Mute School, Takeyl, on 15-3-81 collections were made through flags and coupons and the blind children presented an entertainment programme.

On 12-4-81, fifty blankets were distributed to the disabled persons of Awankghul during the inauguration of Bal Bhavan by the Prime Minister of India.

The State Government has constituted a fifteen-member committee with four-co-opted members for implementing the IYDP programmes.

A special school at Imphal with 50 orthopaedically handicapped persons and five teachers has been started. A sum of Rs. 50,000 has been earmarked for the purpose. The State Government is arranging to extend recurring financial assistance to the educational institutions working in the field of handicapped persons covering both Governmental and voluntary organisations. Arrangements have been made for providing artificial limbs, white cane, wheeled chair, exercise cycle etc. to the handicapped persons. Besides, six resource rooms for 50 disabled students are to be opened both in the valley and hills. The State Labour Department has been requested to open special counters for the disabled at district employment offices at an early date.

The State Committee has also decided to promote establishment of sheltered workshop for multiple handicapped persons in all the districts.

Reservation of three per cent of posts for disabled persons in the lower grades of the Government service will be implemented, in a phased manner. The State level committee has also decided to extend assistance to the disabled persons in the fields of agriculture, poultry farming, piggery, animal husbandary and cottage industries.

Orissa

The State of Orissa has a handicapped population of nearly two lakhs. There were already one school for the deaf and another for the blind at Bhubaneswar. In 1972 another institution for the deaf and the blind was established at Puri. The expenditure on welfare of the handicapped has been increasing from Rs. 4.10 lakhs in 1975-76, to Rs. 7.81 lakhs during 1981-82. The following institutions have come into existence with grants-in-aid from the Department of Community Development and Rural Reconstruction of the State Government :—

1. Red Cross School for the blind, Berhampur, Ganjam.
2. Louis Braille Vocational Training Centre for the Sighted, Berhampur, Ganjam.
3. Home and Hope (School for the mentally retarded), Rourkela, Sundergarh.
4. Kalyani school for the blind, Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack.
5. Deaf and Dumb School, Berhampur, Ganjam.
6. Lachhmanjew School for the Blind, Mahal, Cuttack.
7. Sisu Bihar, Cuttack.

The following associations/organisations are also being helped for welfare activities for the disabled :

1. Artificial limbs manufacturing Corporation of India Bairoi, District, Cuttack.
2. Hind Kustha Nibarana Sangha Bhubaneswar.
3. Anatha Anadan Kendra, Ask, Ganjam.
4. Seva Samiti, Haridaspur, Cuttack.
5. Orissa Association for the Deaf, Taletelanga Bazar, Cuttack.
6. Orissa Association for the Blind, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar.

There is a scheme for special aids to the handicapped students and non-students, such as, hearing aids, prosthetic and orthotic aids. So far 57 beneficiaries have been covered under this scheme.

The State Govt. is implementing a scheme for the award of scholarship from Class I to University level to those handicapped students who are not covered by Government of India scholarship scheme. This scheme is in operation since 1978-79 and has covered 485 beneficiaries, with an expenditure of Rs. 158 lakhs till the end of 1980-81. The central scholarship has been given to 543 students.

The State Government has reserved three per cent of vacancies in its services for the disabled. Relaxation of age, marks and other qualifications is allowed in their case.

So far 618 handicapped persons have been registered in C.D. & R.R. Department and 2042 have registered their names in different employment exchanges in the State. More than 130 handicapped persons have so far been employed in various posts.

The Blind students have been given 50 per cent concession in Orissa State transport buses. A conveyance allowance is being given to the blind and orthopaedically handicapped Government employees.

A scheme for self-employment to help the adult disabled persons with 50 per cent loan from the nationalised banks at lower rate of interest and 50 per cent subsidy from the State Government is under consideration of the State Government.

The State Level Committee on IYDP has decided to establish (a) four vocational training centres-cum-sheltered workshops in the State on zonal basis (b) a Braille press to meet the requirement of books for the blind, (c) more integrated units to meet the educational needs of handicapped children, especially in rural areas. It has also been decided to propagate measures for the prevention of disability.

As regards the establishment of vocational training centre-cum-sheltered workshop the State Government has already given grant in aid to the tune of Rs. 85,000 to the Orissa State council for Child Welfare for establishment of a centre at Barang in Cuttack District, which is expected to come up soon.

A Central scheme for integrated schooling is being implemented by the State Government and so far nine integrated units have been opened at primary level with 130 beneficiaries. □

Madhya Pradesh

SEVERAL concrete measures are being taken by the Madhya Pradesh Government for the Welfare of the physically handicapped. The basic object of these efforts is to provide them meaningful assistance in such a manner that the disabled persons shed off their inferiority complex, lead a normal life and become active partners in the development efforts.

The Chief Minister in his message on the subject had emphasised that the handicapped are a part of our society and like others, they have a right to earn their livelihood and lead an honourable life in society. He solicited the cooperation of voluntary agencies in this stupendous task.



An orthopaedist examining a person with emaciated leg

Although exact figures of the handicapped in the State would be known only after some time when the 1981 census figures would be published but according to a survey carried out by the department of Panchayat and Social Welfare from 1977 to 1980 the number of the handicapped was 76,500 in rural areas and 34,340 in urban areas. An intensive survey is also being conducted in the State to know the exact number of the handicapped and the nature of their disability.

A State level advisory committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Minister which would give a policy direction and coordinate the Government and non-Government efforts for helping the disabled. Committees are also coming up at the district level to oversee the progress of the programmes in their areas.

Three per cent jobs in class III and IV have been reserved for the physically disabled in Government departments. Besides, a ten year age relaxation has also been given to them to join government service. A number of concessions are also being offered in respect of examination fees for the physically handicapped.

A major decision of the State Government is the "Special Security pension Scheme" which will benefit the disabled living in rural areas as well. The scheme which has come into effect from the Republic Day, 1981, provides for a monthly pension of Rs. 60 to a destitute disabled person.

With a view to providing education to blind, deaf and dumb, eight institutions are being started in the State. Arrangement for higher secondary education has been made at Jabalpur and Bilaspur. In Sagar, Bhopal, Gwalior, Rewa, Jagdalpur and Raipur classes upto middle standard are being run for deaf and dumb while at Jabalpur, Bhopal, Raipur, Indore, Gwalior and Bilaspur facilities exist for education of blind in general schools. For the mentally retarded children, an institution is functioning at Indore. For the upkeep, education, training and rehabilitation of handicapped children three homes are being run by the Government at Indore, Raipur and Jabalpur.

With a view to enabling the deaf and dumb adults to earn livelihood an institution is being run in Indore by Government which has a residential workshop also. Training-cum-production centres are also being run for the handicapped at Jabalpur and Indore. The labour department of the Union Government is running an employment office and a training centre for the welfare of the handicapped. The State Government have also set up an institute for the education, training and rehabilitation of the handicapped at Jabalpur in 1979-80.

In addition to this, additional amounts are set apart in the budget for providing scholarship to handicapped students. Prizes are also given to skilled handicapped employees every year. Two camps are held to examine physically handicapped and provide them with artificial limbs.

A number of schemes for the welfare of the handicapped are being implemented this year. The Government have decided to bear the full cost of providing artificial limbs to handicapped. Even in a tribal area like Bastar the district administration has already arranged for this. The rural handicapped students will be provided facilities for obtaining education in the general schools and boarding arrangements will

be made for them. Homes at two places, in the State will be set up for the welfare of the mentally retarded children. Employment, rehabilitation and occupation services will be started in several places of the State with the assistance of voluntary and charitable institutions to enable the handicapped to set up their own ventures.

As the non-Government agencies have to play a significant role the Government gives 60 per cent grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations who extend a helping hand in this vital humanitarian task. At present 14 such bodies are engaged in the work of rehabilitation of the handicapped. In Vidisha and Indore towns of the State excellent work has been done in providing artificial limbs to scores of physically handicapped people who are earning their livelihood independently.

Lakshadweep

THE Administration of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep has formulated the following programmes for the observance of I.Y.D.P. : 1. Organising public meetings, Seminars Cultural Competitions. 2. Conducting of exhibitions in all islands depicting various aspects of I.Y.D.P. 3. Publication of a Souvenir. 4. Conducting of Medical Camps and giving financial assistance for specialised treatment on mainland. 5. To impart training to the disabled persons from the training institutions for such persons on mainland, and give financial assistance to them on completion of their training to start production centres in islands. Provisions of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 2.50 lakhs have been made in the Annual Plan 1981-82 and Five Year Plan 1980-85 respectively for these programmes.

Besides these the Administration has been implementing the following programmes for the welfare of the handicapped : 1. Aid to handicapped persons for purchasing artificial limbs, 2. Payment of pension at the rate of Rs. 60 per month to physically handicapped persons.

Nagaland

A seminar on the IYDP was organised by the Nagaland Social Welfare Department at Kohima on 3-3-81. It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Mr. J. S. Jasokie. A special feature of the seminar was the display of skills by the inmates of the Blind School, Pherima and Vocational Training Centre for physically handicapped, Chuchuyimlang. All the disabled persons who attended the seminar were given cash awards, sewing machines, carpentry tools and prosthetic aids. The Seminar made various recommendations for improving the condition of the disabled.

The following schemes are being implemented by the Social Welfare department for the benefit of the disabled people in the State :

Award of Scholarship to Physically Handicapped Students : Under this scheme scholarship is awarded to physically handicapped students. The rate of scholarship is Rs. 25 p.m. per student of Class I to Class V and Rs. 35 p.m. per student of Class VI to Class VIII. A total number of 67 disabled students were awarded scholarships during 1979-80 and 59 students during 1980-81. About 100 disabled students will benefit during 1981-82 and during the remaining

period of the Sixth Five Year Plan about 200 more will receive the scholarship.

Financial Assistance to Invalid Persons : Under this scheme, financial assistance is given to invalid persons at Rs. 30 per month for one year. In addition, lumpsum grant is also given to amputees for the fitting of artificial limbs. Up to now, 153 invalid persons have received financial assistance. Apart from that, 5 disabled persons have received lump-sum grants for fitting of artificial limbs and for medical treatment. During 1981-82, financial assistance will be given to about 180 invalid persons. During the remaining years of the Sixth Five Year Plan another group of about 800 invalid persons will be given financial assistance.

Prosthetic Aids : Prosthetic aids like wheel-chairs crutches and hearing-aids are provided free of cost to disabled persons. Besides these sewing and knitting machines and materials for handicrafts are provided to disabled persons who are skilled in various handicrafts to enable them to supplement their family income.

Stipend for Typist Training : In view of the IYDP, it is proposed to start this new scheme of awarding stipend to disabled persons for undergoing typist training in a suitable training institute. Fifteen more disabled persons will be awarded stipends for the training purpose during the remaining years of the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Vocational Training : The Social Welfare Department gives grant-in-aid annually to the Nagaland Gandhi Ashram of Chuchuyimlang for maintenance of one vocational training in various vocational trades like carpentry, tailoring black-smithy and handicrafts.

Rehabilitation-cum-Production Centre : The Centre is meant for the rehabilitation and training of cured leprosy patients. The inmates of the centre are imparted training in carpentry, knitting, tailoring, weaving and handicrafts and they are also provided with free accommodation, food and clothing.

Blind School : Blind School at Pherima was set up in 1977. The school imparts education up to Class VI in the Braille system. The inmates are also given training in various handicrafts and they are provided free accommodation, food and clothing.

Bihar

The following schemes for the welfare of the blind, deaf and dumb, disabled children and women are being implemented by the Government of Bihar.

1. School for the Blind

One school each for the blind is being run in Patna, Darbhanga and Ranchi districts. The schools at Patna and Darbhanga are high schools which have accommodation for 68 and 58 students respectively. Ranchi Middle school has 5 teachers including the Principal. The annual expenditure on running these schools is about 3.8 lakhs. The Ranchi school is a middle school having 25 students. Food, clothes, text books, reading material and other facilities are being provided free to the students.

Patna and Darbhanga have one school each for the deaf and dumb. About 50 students in each school are provided free food, clothes, books and residential facilities. Both these schools are of middle standard.

Till the financial year of 1978-79 scholarships for the disabled students above IX and post-entrance classes were being given directly by the Government of India. From the financial year 1979-80 this

system was decentralised and now scholarships are being given by the State Government. In the year 1979-80 and 1980-81, an amount of Rs. 3.80 lakhs and Rs. 4.58 lakhs respectively was given as scholarships.

Under another scheme the poor disabled persons are given special aids and instruments such as artificial limbs, special shoes, tricycles, hearing aids, etc.

The Government gives grants to the non-official organisations/agencies engaged in social welfare work for the disabled. An amount of Rs. 1,74,000 was given to such organisations in 1980-81.

This Government sanctioned the opening of a school at Monghyr for the deaf and dumb under the Regional Sub-Plan and another school for the deaf and dumb at Dumka under the Schedule Tribe Regional Sub-Plan in March 1981. Both these schools are middle schools and provide residential accommodation for 25 students each.

Three per cent posts in Group 'C' and 'D' of the Government of India services are reserved for the blind, deaf and other physically disabled persons. The State Government is also considering a proposal to reserve three per cent of such posts for these categories. The Government is also considering a proposal to take over the middle school for Blind at Bhagalpur and Bara-Telpa, Chapra which are at present being run by non-official organisations.

Another proposal under consideration is the reservation of three per cent vacancies for nomination of disabled persons in college and university-level classes.

A campaign of registering disabled persons at the block level was launched in January 1981.

The proposal to take over the workshop and the Gaya Kamla Nehru Social Service Institute, Budha Colony, Patna for the convenience of the disabled is under consideration of the State Government.

The Social Welfare Ministry, Government of India New Delhi sanctioned the first instalment of Rs. 10 lakhs as grant in 1981-82 to the Bihar State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society to make available artificial limbs/equipment to the disabled persons.

Administrative approval was accorded for opening a braille press-cum-training centre at Dhanbad for which an amount of Rs. 8.50 lakhs has been sanctioned in the first stage. Construction work is likely to start in the near future.

Himachal Pradesh

HIMACHAL PRADESH Government has adopted an all-embracing training and employment policy for giving adequate opportunities to the handicapped to equip themselves to earn an honourable living. In all Rs. 22 lakhs will be utilised for the purpose this year.

The Government has set up a 21-member State Board for the relief and rehabilitation of disabled persons with the Chief Minister as its Chairman. The Committee will promote welfare of disabled persons and formulate and review programmes aimed at their welfare both in Govt. and voluntary agency fields.

The Government has decided to raise reservation of jobs for handicapped persons in State Govt. service from one per cent to three per cent during the International Year of Disabled Persons.



A disabled person receiving State assistance

All departments of the Govt. have been directed to appoint at least one handicapped person during the year. Simultaneously all public and private sector units have been advised to employ one handicapped person for every 15 employees in the units.

All the eligible handicapped persons in the State will be covered under Disability Relief Allowance and a monthly grant of Rs. 50 will be given to them to enable them to earn their livelihood. Last year such allowance was given to 2275 handicapped persons. The procedure for supply of artificial limbs is also being simplified and liberalised to help the handicapped. These will be supplied free to those with a monthly income of less than Rs. 300, those in 301—600 income bracket will get 50 per cent subsidy. Previously the income limit was half of the revised ceilings.

The Medical Department will examine all children under the age of 14 years and all school students upto higher secondary level. It will also intensify preventive measures against blindness, deafness, leprosy, polio, etc.

The Education Department is training at least one teacher per district to teach the mentally retarded children. After training the teachers will take up work in one school each in concerned districts. Two schools are at present conducting teaching of handicapped and retarded children. These children are given conveyance allowance at the rate of Rs. 25 p.m. and stationery allowance of Rs. 150 per annum each. The scheme will continue. Scholarships are available to handicapped persons undergoing studies. Upto middle school standard the day scholars get Rs. 15 p.m. while hostellers get Rs. 40. In higher colleges the scholarships are Rs. 50 and Rs. 75 in 1st year and Rs. 75 and Rs. 110 for 2nd and 3rd year. For chartered accountancy after intermediate also the rates are same. For post-graduate courses, MA, MSc., LLB, LLM, ME, PhD and chartered accountant and in-plant training the rates are Rs. 100 and Rs. 125 p.m.

On the training side a Vocational Rehabilitation Centre is proposed to be set up next year. The centre will impart training for posts of draftsmen,

surveyors, wiremen, cutting and tailoring, stenography, fruit and vegetable preservation, radio mechanics, electricians, carpenters and canning. It has been decided to reserve 5 per cent seats in Girls Industrial Training Institutes, Rural I.T.Is and Tailoring Centres for the handicapped persons. Later, they will be helped through grant of free tools and equipment to help them set up gainful shops. Sewing machines, knitting machines, handlooms and card brushing will be some of the aids to be supplied to the disabled.

Three disabled persons in each of the 69 Development blocks in the State are to be given training under Trysem for setting up their own enterprise for self-employment.

The H. P. Road Transport Corporation will give free travel concession to handicapped persons with more than 50 per cent disability. At present such a concession is available to the blind only in HPRTC buses.

A handicapped person is being allotted a petrol pump at Narkanda while case for allotment of a gas agency to another handicapped person is also under consideration.

The Indian Council of Child Welfare has been running schools for blind, deaf and dumb children under 14 years at Dhalli and Dharamsala. Now the Council proposes to start similar schools/centres for age group 14—20 years at a cost of Rs. 9 lakhs. These schools will be provided with trained teachers and modern teaching aids.

The Council also proposes to run a school for mentally retarded children at a cost of Rs. 4.65 lakhs. The State is seeking Government of India's help to supplement the Council funds in addition to giving subsidy on its own.

At the same time a Rs. 25-lakh Home for Physically Handicapped persons will be set up at Sundernagar with 50 beds. Surgical, orthopaedic and physiotherapy care will be provided in the Home besides training in vocations suited to the disabilities. Later, wings for blind, deaf and dumb and mentally retarded will be added to the Sundernager Home.

Tamil Nadu

THE Tamil Nadu Government is running 10 schools for the blind at Salem, Cuddalore, Poonamalle, Puttur, Sivaganga, Madurai, Tiruvarur, Ootacamund, Pudukkottai and Nagarkoil. There are six more schools for the blind run by private agencies at Tirupattur, Vellore, Palamcottai, Padanur, Bargur and Irenepuram.

For the deaf, seven schools are being run by the Government at Shivaji Nagar (Thanjavur), Karaikudi, Coimbatore, Gangavalli, Chidambaram, Kancheepuram and Pudukkottai. These are supplemented by the schools run by private agencies at Raja Annamalapuram (Madras), Kalyanapuram (Tirunelveli Dist), Madurai, Manamadurai, Palayamcottai, Mylapore (Madras), Ambur (N. A. Dist), Mowbrays Road (Madras.).

Two combined schools for the blind and deaf are being run by private agencies at Adyar (Madras) and Cathedral (Madras).

There are six privately run schools for the mentally retarded children—at Kilpauk (Madras), Madurai, Vepery (Madras), Adyar (Madras), Raja Annamalapuram (Madras) and Pallavaram (Madras).

For the orthopaedically handicapped, two schools—one at Adyar (Madras) and another at Coimbatore are run by private agencies.

For the vocational training of blind persons, the Government is running three institutions at Guindy (Madras), Madurai and Santhome (Madras). For the same purpose these two privately run centres at Tiruchirapalli and Thiruvannamiyar (Madras).

There is one training Centre (private) for the adult deaf at Santhome High Road, Madras.

The Government is running two training centres—at Egmore (Madras) and Muttakadu (Chingleput)—for the orthopaedically handicapped and leprosy cured persons. Private agencies are running more cured persons. Private agencies are running more training centres for the orthopaedically handicapped at Ennore (Madras) Vellore (2 centres), St. Thomas Mount (Madras), Arambody (Kanyakumari), Nagar-Koil, Mingels Toad (Dindigul), Egmore (Madras) and Tiruchirappalli.

Meghalaya

MEGHALAYA organised a rally, games, sports and musical competitions for the disabled persons and a public meeting in order to focus the attention of the public on the problems of the physically handicapped in the State. About 500 physically handicapped participated in these programmes.



A scene of a musical programme held at Shillong to celebrate IYDP.



A deaf and dumb child receiving price for winning in 100 metre race

The Department of Social Welfare is implementing the following Schemes for the welfare of the handicapped :—

1. Financial assistance is given for the purchase of appliances, artificial limbs, crutches, tricycles, spectacles, hearing aids, etc.
2. Scholarships are being given to the physically handicapped students in schools/colleges in and outside the State. At present 110 students are receiving scholarships.
3. Financial assistance is given to the physically handicapped who are very needy and want to earn their livelihood by starting small shops.
4. A survey has started in the state to find out the population of different types of physically handicapped persons and their



A handicapped child playing on instrument at a musical contest

5. Assistance is given to physically handicapped persons for vocation training/self employment.
6. Seminars/workshops on special problems of the handicapped are organised.
7. Candidates are being trained in physiotherapy and occupational therapy (Diploma courses).

Sikkim

AS a first step to help the blind people of the state the Government of Sikkim is proposing to start a training-cum-production centre in bamboo works in Jurethang (south Sikkim) in the very near future. This will be in addition to the existing system of giving stipends to undertake such trainings outside the state. The Government is likely to spend Rs. 20,000 to 35,000 as recurring expenditure initially on this scheme. The Government has also decided to launch schemes like candle making and training in manufacture of light engineering work.

Arrangements are also being made made to supply prosthetic equipment like hearing aid and wheeled chairs to seventy extreme cases of handicaps which will cost the Government about Rs. 25,000.

The Government is proposing to supply cattle and other domestic animals to the poor and needy handicapped persons.

In the international Year of the Disabled the State Government allowed the crippled infirm and blind with one helper to travel in the Government run buses free of cost.

ACCORDING to the provisional survey-report 1981 of disabled persons with the type of disability as released by the Census Department, Government of India (Sikkim Branch) the following is the statement on disabled persons in Sikkim.

1. Totally blind	182
2. Totally crippled	360
3. Totally dumb	1940

However a scientific survey of disabled persons is yet to be conducted covering bio-data and family background, socio-economic adjustment, attitude of family and community towards the disabled persons etc. The survey is soon to be started.

The Social Welfare Department is taking the following measures for the training and rehabilitation of the handicapped people :

1. Opening of sheltered workshop at south Sikkim where initially about a dozen handicapped persons (blind and the crippled) will be engaged. Work will begin with cane and bamboo and light engineering and other small scale trade will be introduced slowly.
2. Opening a school for the blind for which action is initiated by the Education Department.
3. Granting stipend to the blind, deaf and dumb, etc., for their education at institutions outside Sikkim.
4. Granting stipend and other facilities to the extremely poor handicapped children for their education.

5. Granting of text books on subsidy.
6. Free transport facilities to the handicapped.
7. Establishment Department taking action for job reservation for the handicapped.
8. Free supply of prosthetic equipments to the handicapped.

Andaman and Nicobar

THE IYDP was inaugurated on 5-1-1981 by the Chief Commissioner, of Andaman and Nicobar Administration. Thirty handicapped persons were given financial assistance of Rs. 500 each on this occasion for finding self-employment. During the year all mass media of communication are being used to give wide publicity to the various schemes of the Government in aid of the disabled. A sample survey has been conducted to identify various categories of handicapped persons in this territory and action taken for preparing realistic schemes for their education and rehabilitation. A special cell has been set up in the Directorate for speedy and effective implementation of various schemes for the handicapped. Incentives like scholarships from class I onwards, free uniforms free books, free bus pass, aids and gadgets will be given to handicapped children. Blind, deaf and dumb children will be sent to the mainland for education. Scholarships will also be provided. Teachers will be trained in the mainland for imparting vocational training to the blind. For adult handicapped persons financial assistance will be given for self-employment, purchase of aids and gadgets and artificial limbs. Three per cent vacancies in group 'C' and 'D' posts have been reserved for handicapped persons. Vocational training will be given to the disabled in the District Industries Centre, Port Blair with stipend of Rs. 100 per month.

To help the mentally retarded persons more seats will be got reserved in the mental asylums on the mainland. Special camps for treatment of eye diseases are being organised in tribal areas, where the number of the persons/children suffering from the diseases is reported to be considerably high. Besides concessions such as conveyance allowance, readers allowance for blind and escort allowance for paralysis victims will be provided.

Goa, Daman and Diu

A State level Committee for the International Year of the Disabled Persons (IYDP) has been set up in Goa, Daman and Diu to formulate a plan of action for the welfare of the handicapped persons. The Directorate of Social Welfare is the nodal department for the implementation of the recommendations of the committee.

The Directorate has carried out a survey of the physically handicapped persons, so as to assess the magnitude of the problems. It will help in the formulation of welfare schemes in a comprehensive manner.

A number of schemes have been formulated for the welfare of the handicapped persons, viz, Old Age Pension Scheme, Financial Assistance to the Physically Handicapped for undertaking gainful employment,

Purchase and Fitting of Mobility Aids, Scholarships to the handicapped children in schools, etc., which are under the process of scrutiny of the Government.

A special cell has been set up to monitor the welfare activities for the disabled persons. Facilities being provided to the disabled persons are given below schemewise.

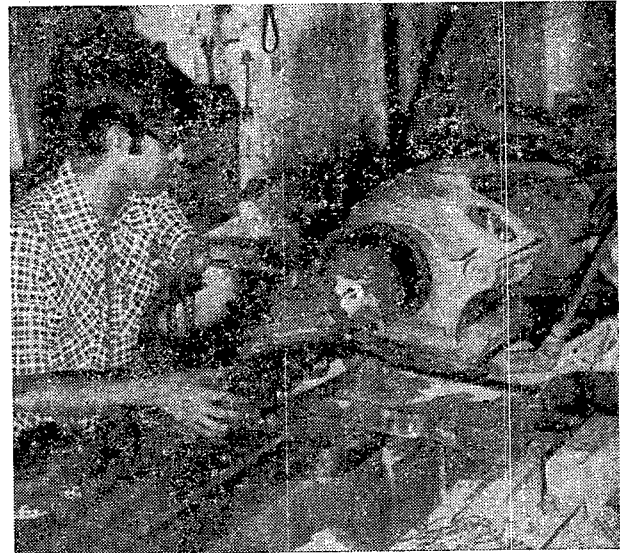
Education : Scholarships amounting to Rs. 40 to Rs. 125 p.m. to the handicapped students from Class IX onwards are given to eligible students every year.

Employment : Three per cent job reservation in respect of group 'C' and 'D' posts for the physically handicapped persons in all Govt. departments is being implemented.

Awards : Outstanding employers of the physically handicapped persons are eligible for cash awards and certificate of merit.

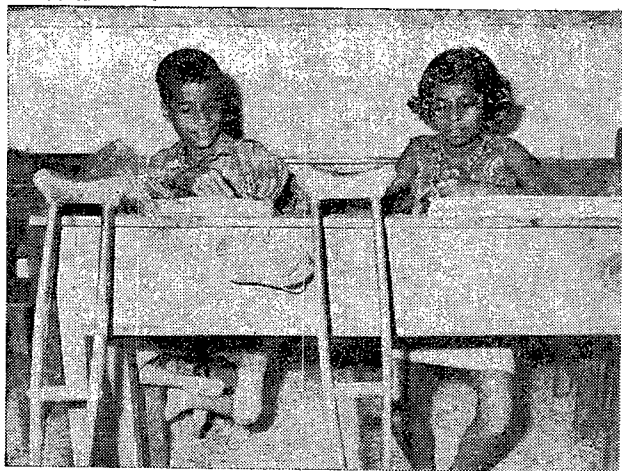
Subsidy on Fuel : 50 per cent subsidy on fuel is given to the handicapped and ex-servicemen owners of motorised vehicles for transport from the place of duty to residence.

TRANSPORT allowances of Rs. 50 p.m., books and stationery allowances of Rs. 400 p.a., reader allowances of Rs. 50 p.m. in case of blind children and escort allowance of Rs. 75 p.m. in case of severely handicapped children are given. Under another scheme of Government of India, implant trainees in industrial establishments are given stipends suitably.



A disabled person working on a lathe with one hand

Providoria runs a production-cum-Training Centre at Chimbel for the blind males. Instruction is imparted in caning of furniture and chalk making. The trainees earn while they learn. The stress is on training, production and self-employment. The Goa Hindu Asso-



Disabled trainees at a Production-cum-Training Centre in Goa

ciation's Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre, Margao is making all efforts to help the handicapped lead a useful life of their own choice. As the memorial of the 13th exposition of the sacred relics of St. Francis Xavier in 1975, the Archdiocese of Goa had started in 1978 a Training-cum-production centre at Old Goa, for the handicapped. Besides this centre, orthopaedic and prosthetic centre at St Inex, Panaji is also run by the Archdiocese where artificial limbs and calipers are manufactured and fitted. Proposals to start a Physiotherapy centre by the Archdiocese is on the anvil. The Goa Red Cross Society plans to start a house for the physically handicapped.

Delhi

THE Directorate of Social Welfare of Delhi Administration is providing welfare services to the socially and physically handicapped individuals and groups since its set up. In the year 1980-81 the Department has focussed its attention to what needs to be done for the handicapped people for their full and equal participation in the national life and to make the public aware of their special needs. It has also directed its efforts towards the prevention of disability and for the rehabilitation of disabled people. While programming for their rehabilitation, stress has been laid on the ability to work by the disabled rather than on his disability.

The Directorate of Social Welfare is implementing the following programmes for the education, training and rehabilitation of the blind, the deaf, the orthopaedically handicapped and the mentally retarded.

1. Government School for Blind Boys, Kingsway Camp, Delhi : Education upto Secondary standard, and Vocational Training to blind children with free boarding and lodging.
2. Govt. Lady Neyes Sec. School for Deaf. 1, Ferozeshah Kotla, New Delhi, Education upto Secondary Standard. Separate Hostel facilities for boys and girls also provided.

3. Training-Cum-Production Centre (Male), Gandhi Nagar, Delhi. Provides vocational training to physically handicapped in book binding, tailoring, cane work, carpentry etc. for their rehabilitation.
4. Training-Cum-Production Centre (Male), 20, North Avenue, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi. Provides vocational training to physically handicapped in printing and tailoring.
5. Training-Cum-Production Centre (Female), C-12, Green Park, Exn. New Delhi. Provides vocational training to physically handicapped women in tailoring, knitting and home industries.
6. Sheltered Workshop for Physically Handicapped, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi. Provides work in piece rate wages to the trained physically handicapped.
7. Hostel for the Physically Handicapped, Model Town, Delhi. Provides hostel facilities to handicapped students/trainees.
8. Stipend/Scholarships to physically handicapped students, Sewa Kuti, Kingsway Camp, New Delhi. Provides monetary assistance to physically handicapped students studying in primary classes onwards.
9. Assistance to physically handicapped for the purchase of prosthetic aids : Provides financial help to physically handicapped for the purchase of prosthetic aids.
10. Subsidy on purchase of petrol/diesel : The scheme provides for refund of 50 per cent of actual expenditure on purchase of petrol/diesel (subject to billings indicated below :
 1. Vehicles of 2 HP and below: 15 litres p.m.
 2. Vehicles of more than 2 HP : 25 litres p.m.
11. Hostel for college-going blind students, Kingsway Camp, Delhi : Provides hostel facilities to college going blind students.
12. State Award : For outstanding and most efficient handicapped employed/self-employed handicapped persons.
13. Home for mentally retarded persons : Kasturba Niketan, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi : Provides specialised education, training, in carpentry and occupational therapy to the mentally deficient boys between the age of 6 and 16 years.
14. Home for Mentally Retarded Children (Girls), 14/78, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi: Educatable and trainable mentally retarded girls between the age of 6 to 18 years are provided education and training in tailoring by individual assignment.
15. Home for Mentally Retarded Adults, Kasturba Niketan, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi : Provides boarding, lodging and individualized treatment to mentally retarded who have none to fall back upon.

In the total budget provision for the above mentioned programme is Rs. 37,34,000 for the year 1981-82.

In addition, the following schemes have been formulated and the follow-up action is being taken by the I.Y.D.P. Committee the Department :

1. Expansion of scheme of financial assistance to socially and physically handicapped persons.
 2. Nursery|Primary Education for the Deaf.
 3. Publicity and propaganda.
 4. Strengthening of teachers training unit at the Govt. Lady Neyce School for the Deaf.
 5. Better pay scales of the teachers for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb and the Mentally Retarded.
 6. Residential Institution for the orthopaedically handicapped.
 7. Institution for severely|profoundly mentally retarded children and adults.
 8. Increase in the rate of stipend to physically handicapped students upto 8th standard.
 9. Grant-in-Aid to the voluntary institutions for the welfare of physically handicapped.
 10. Rehabilitation centre for the leprosy patients.
- The budget provision for the above-mentioned scheme is Rs. 14,80,000 and consequently, the total

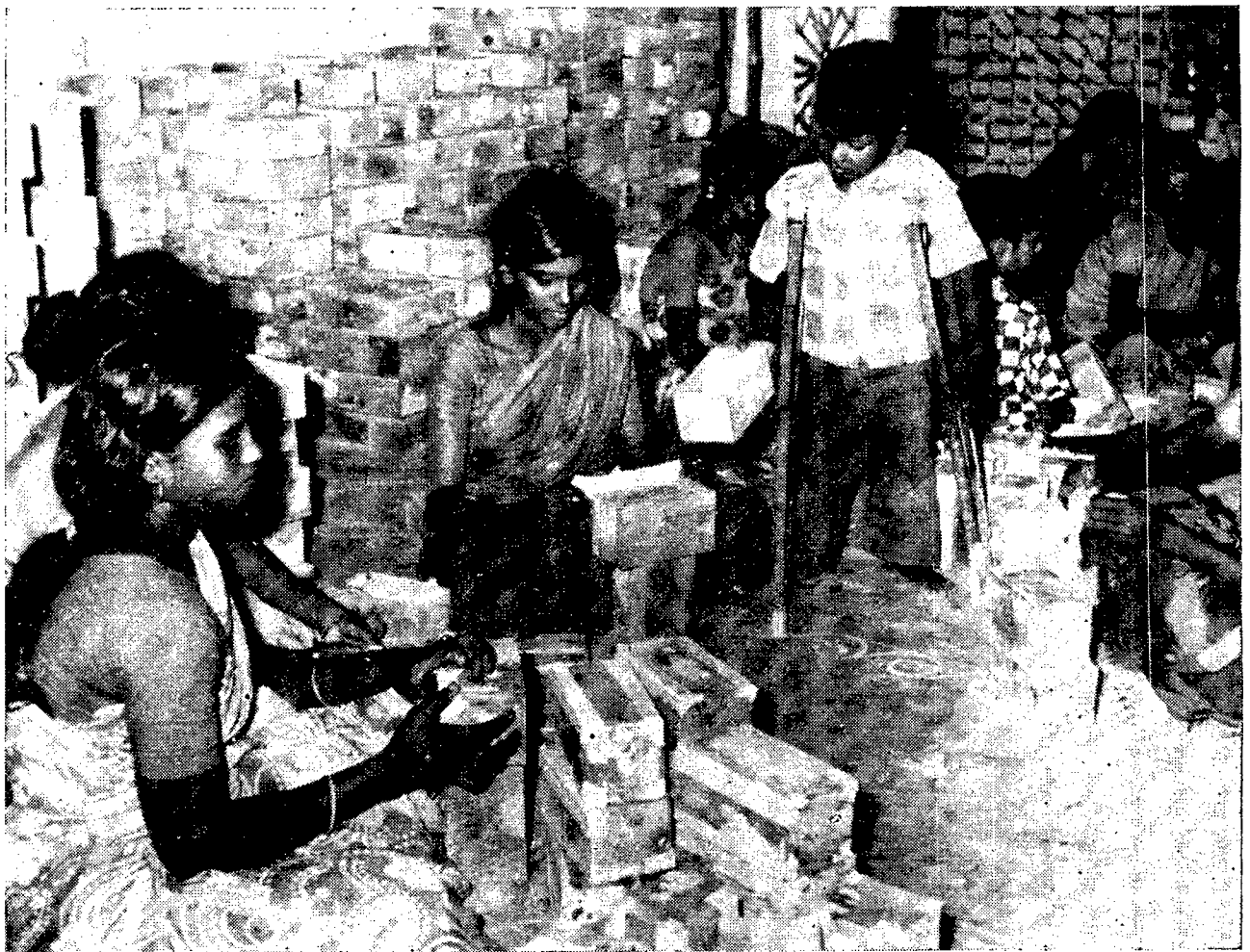
budget provision for the disabled persons comes to Rs. 52,14,000 in the year 1981-82.

Moreover, the Directorate of Social Welfare has employed 33 handicapped in the International Year of the Disabled Persons.

The Directorate is also encouraging employers and organisations to welcome disabled people as staff members and to implement the theme of the year 'Full Participation and Equality'.

The Directorate is also going to award two shields to the employers who have given maximum employment to the handicapped persons and nine cash awards of Rs. 400 each to the best self-employed handicapped.

In August the Directorate of Social Welfare is convening a three-day seminar on disabled persons to promote the aims of the International Year of the Disabled Persons and to involve both disabled and able-bodied people in its deliberations.

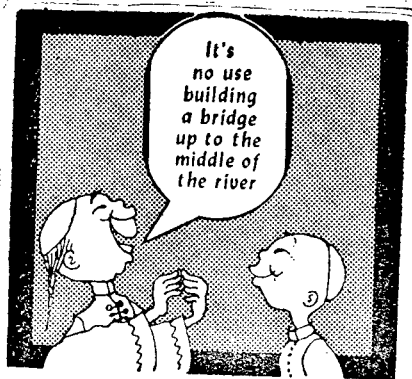


Handicapped persons at work at the St. Anthony's Chalk Industries

Pondicherry

IN the Union Territory of Pondicherry there is a workhouse-cum-production home for the aged and infirm. A special school at Pillaichavadi (Pondi-

cherry) is imparting education to blind and deaf-mute children. Another home in Pondicherry is providing treatment and vocation training for the orthopaedically handicapped children.



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SADEUS/LIC/SP/32

Better Deal for the Disabled in West Bengal

S. K. Ray*

With appropriate remedial action and vocational training depending on the nature of disability, most disabled persons can become almost as useful citizens as others in the society. This was the subject of deliberation of a State-level seminar held in Calcutta earlier this year. The seminar was organised by the State Social Welfare Department in connection with the International Year of the Disabled Persons. The seminar surveyed the problems of the disabled, broadly classified as the blind, the deaf and dumb, orthopaedically handicapped and mentally retarded. It suggested a four-stage programme of action; prevention, cure and remedy education and training and rehabilitation. Stress was laid on the preventive aspect and care of the child and the expectant mother claiming priority attention. It was recommended that steps should be taken not only to ensure adequate nutrition to both the mother and the child but also to administer polio vaccine, Triple antigen and other preventive vaccines to children. With regard to cure and remedy the need for early detection of the handicap was underlined, for cure becomes easier at early states.

About Education and Training it was observed that there was dearth not only of such institutions as could cater to the specific needs of the disabled but also of dedicated and adequately trained teachers. The seminar underlined the need for opening more training institutions for the disabled, extending recognition to all the existing ones run by voluntary organisations and the introduction of incentives to attract better teachers. It also called for their complete rehabilitation by enabling them to earn their bread by themselves through such measures as mandatory job reservations also in private sector and vocational training.

New Scheme Initiated

Almost similar is the thinking of the Government of West Bengal about the welfare of the disabled. Their concern is reflected in the new scheme initiated by them for the handicapped and in the way they are

carrying forward the on-going projects. To begin with, a Board has been set up to look after the welfare of the disabled. A scheme is under way for an extensive publicity campaign through such media as films to educate the public on how to prevent disablement. As a preventive measure a large-scale child nutrition project is being implemented. Under a scheme of prosthetic aid different aids and equipment like hearing aid, artificial limbs and wheel chairs are given free to orthopaedically handicapped, blind and deaf and dumb persons belonging to families with incomes of upto Rs. 500 a month. Scholarships are awarded to physically handicapped students of upto 16 years reading below Class IX.

Vocational Training

The State Government is opening a big vocational training centre in Calcutta this year to provide greater opportunities to the disabled to get suitable vocational training to be able to make an independent living. Similar centres, one each in different districts, will also be set up. A proposal is under consideration to set up a cell in the Department of Social Welfare to monitor if the orders of the State Government reserving two per cent of the vacancies in Government establishments for physically handicapped persons are being implemented. The Government will consider introducing a law on reservation, if necessary.

Economic Rehabilitation

To enable the physically handicapped persons belonging to families in the low income groups to lead an independent and dignified life through self-employment the State Government recently introduced a scheme for their economic rehabilitation. Under the scheme financial assistance to a limit of Rs. 1, 000 is given to each person for such purposes as setting up cottage or small-scale industrial units, purchasing agricultural or small-scale industrial inputs or implements, setting up poultry, dairy, beekeeping or piggery farms or for pursuing a vocation or trade that will help the beneficiary in his economic rehabilitation. Apart from all these measures and schemes grants-in-aid are sanctioned every year to different institutions run by voluntary organizations for the benefit of the disabled.

*Our Senior Correspondent in Calcutta

Pioneer Institutions

Some schools and institutions are no doubt rendering yeomen's service to the disabled, though their number is insignificant. The foremost need is to have a good number of such institutions as will turn out teachers of the right calibre and in an adequate number who in turn will educate and train the disabled. In West Bengal, Alakendu Bodh Niketan, Kankurgachi, Calcutta, started professional training programmes for the mentally retarded in a planned manner in 1978. Possibly this is the first such institution to have started a Professional Diploma Course in Mental Retardation which is comprehensive enough to cover sociology, philosophy, psychology, child development and health, art and craft, music and dance, etc. The Teachers' Training College for the deaf started in Calcutta in 1896 was the first of its kind to be set up in this subcontinent and has since its inception been making an invaluable contribution to the training of teachers for the deaf.

The Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School opened in 1893 has been a pioneer in the field of educating the deaf. All the classes of the school are equipped with group hearing aids. Some of the students after completing the course at this school continue their studies in schools meant for normal boys and girls or in art colleges, tailoring colleges or other training centres. As for the blind, the Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission School is a leading institution in the country imparting education to blind students in such a way as to make them productive members of the society.

Deafness, blindness or mental retardation are handicaps of which people are generally aware. What is not commonly known is cerebral palsy which manifests in different patterns of handicap. The cerebral palsied children or spastic children, as they are called, suffer from multiple disabilities. They may have clumsy movements, speech or hearing defect or blindness or mental handicap. The Centre for Special Education at the Ballygunge Military camp in Calcutta run by the West Bengal Spastic Society is meeting the educational and training needs of such children. Each child is given individual attention.

The problems of orthopaedically handicapped persons are being dealt with by the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped set up at Bon-Hooghly, Calcutta, by the Union Department of Social Welfare. The Institute has already begun collection of data on the services available in the country for the orthopaedically handicapped persons at all levels. The NIOH has also opened an advanced Bio-Engineering Department where splints and artificial legs are being fabricated from sophisticated compounds and supplied to handicapped persons. At the same time research in and fabrication of low-cost aids are being undertaken.

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre

The most important component of the rehabilitation programme for the handicapped is their economic rehabilitation. And to that end the setting up of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Physically Handicapped by the Union Ministry of Labour in Beliaghata, Calcutta, in 1975 was a big step forward. The VRC together with the Special Employment Exchange is find-

ing jobs for the physically handicapped for their economic rehabilitation. With a view to rendering comprehensive rehabilitation services—psychological, economic and social—VRC admits orthopaedically handicapped, deaf and blind persons of the age group of 18 to 40 years. After admission they are referred to the Medical Board attached to the Centre for opinion on physical restoration and job suitability. As per the recommendations of the Board they are then advised either to undergo corrective surgery or use prosthesis for better mobility. The Centre also helps them to get prosthetic aids from service organizations because the costs of these instruments are prohibitive for most of them.

An in-plant training programme is being implemented with the cooperation of the Department of Social Welfare to meet the objection commonly raised by the employers that the physically handicapped persons do not possess the necessary skills. The programme has proved effective in improving their skills. The organization or the industry which gives the training has no obligation to absorb the persons after training, rather they are given priority when vacancies arise. The duty of the VRC does not end with the placement of the handicapped. VRC takes follow-up action to ensure that they retain their jobs.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Centre has now undertaken the task of identifying jobs in public sector undertakings suitable for different types of handicapped persons to fill up the vacancies reserved for them. In the opinion of the Centre more and more undertakings are now taking keen interest in the matter of training and employing handicapped persons. Calcutta Telephones has initiated steps for placement of handicapped persons in suitable posts. They have started implementing their scheme of manning PCO booths with physically handicapped persons sponsored by VRC.

To help the severely handicapped persons who cannot be employed in industries as also those who are waiting for jobs the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre has organized a welfare workshop (Vikalang Punarvas Samiti). It secures job order for the workshop from different organizations. Severely handicapped persons with entrepreneurial skill, not suitable for employment, are encouraged by the Centre to take up self-employment schemes with financial assistance secured for them from banks on differential rates of interest.

In spite of the efforts of the State Government and different organizations employment prospects for the handicapped in this State are not yet bright. The rate of placement will certainly improve if the reservation of vacancies in Government establishments is given a legal sanction. As for the severely handicapped, they will have a better future if more and more sheltered workshops on the lines of the Vikalang Punarvas Samiti of VRC are opened. One such workshop is being run in Calcutta by an organization called Rehabilitation India which has ambitious plans for the expansion of the workshop. But such workshops can grow and thrive if only adequate orders are placed with them by Government and private organizations and raw materials are made available at cheaper rates.

Better deal for Handicapped in

Andhra Pradesh

V. Sripati Rao

THE Government of Andhra Pradesh has formulated several welfare programmes and schemes to provide substantial relief and assistance to the handicapped, and disabled persons. As a first step in that direction the budget provision for the welfare of the handicapped during the current financial year 1981-82 has been enhanced to Rs. 150 lakhs, a six-fold increase over last year. Around one crore rupees will be spent in the Year of the Disabled, on various welfare measures for the handicapped in the State.

A premier step in this direction is the formation of "Handicapped Persons Cooperative Finance Corporation" in the State with substantial financial support from the State Government. The Corporation will also draw funds from banks and the Life Insurance Corporation to multiply its resources for the welfare of the handicapped.

Three per cent of jobs in the State are reserved for the handicapped. This concession has been extended to a period of another ten years. Milch animals, poultry units, type-writers, and monetary grants up to Rs. 5,000 per person are being given not only to make them stand on their own feet, but even to support their families by entering into small business ventures. Old age pension provided to destitutes in the State has been extended to the aged among the physically handicapped and disabled. Extensive survey has been carried out to identify the disabled living even in remote villages to provide financial and other assistance. Arrangements have been made to provide hearing aids, wheel chairs, tricycles, and other aids to them.

At present 11 homes are functioning in the State for the aged, disabled, blind, deaf, dumb and orphans located at Hyderabad, Cuddapah, Kakinada, Karimnagar,

Vijayawada and Tirupati. About Rs. 60 per head per month is spend on diet for the inmates of these homes. For disabled student boarders clothes and books are given free.

Physically handicapped students receive liberal scholarships ranging from Rs. 40 to Rs. 125 per month. At present scholarships are offered from 9th class onwards. This year the facility of scholarships to students will be extended to classes below ninth also.

The State level committee which has been set up for looking into the training, placement and review of job opportunities for the physically handicapped persons reviews the position regularly and guides the employment exchanges in the state. A special employment exchange for the physically handicapped set-up in Hyderabad, offers priority number while sponsoring such candidates for employment.

Monetary help and incentives generally offered for inter-caste marriages has been extended to the physically disabled also for all marriages between blind and non-blind. Incentives will be forth-coming from the Government.

Physically handicapped employees of the State Government are eligible for conveyance allowance of Rs. 50 a month. Those who own vehicles get petrol at concessional rates. A scheme is under way to provide free transport facility to all the disabled students, from their homes to schools and back at Government cost.

In addition to the above many more welfare programmes have now been tied up with the Social Welfare Department in the State, so that the benefit reaches up to the village level. An amount of Rs. 2. 30 lakhs has been kept at the disposal of each district Social Welfare Officer for supply of aids like artificial limbs, hearing aids free of cost for the disabled living in rural areas. In addition, an amount of Rs. 17. 79 lakhs has been set apart and released to district collectors for providing similar assistance to the needy. Under a separate scheme, an amount of Rs. 11. 50 lakhs has been apportioned to be offered to disabled as marginal money to enable them to raise the necessary finances from the banking institutions for economic support schemes. The Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation have already released an amount of Rs. 30 lakhs to assist the physically handicapped to set up self-employment ventures.

Government has plans to set up a complex for the benefit of the physically handicapped at Karimnagar, and two training cum production centres, one each at Ditchpally, and Masulipatnam at an outlay, Rs. 10 lakhs.

Our Senior Correspondent,
Hyderabad



A class room in the Home for Handicapped (Polio) children, Trivandrum (Photo - B. Sankaran Nair)

Welfare of the Disabled in Kerala

C. S. Pillai*

THE observance of the IYDP started in Kerala on the very first day of January 1981, with the inauguration of two projects for the benefit of the welfare of the physically handicapped under the auspices of the Union Labour Ministry's Vocational Rehabilitation Centre in Trivandrum. These projects are : (1) Envelope Manufacturing Unit sponsored by the Kerala Women's Council and (2) an Ambar Charkha Unit in collaboration with the Khadi and Village Industries Board. These projects are now giving employment to 75 handicapped persons who were trained for the work entrusted to them. The Vocational Rehabilitation Centre proposes to open a Match-Box Manufacturing Unit to give employment to the physically handicapped persons.

* Our Senior Correspondent, Trivandrum

Running of educational institutions and rescue centres for the handicapped, besides extending them job opportunities and other concessions and grants are some of the main activities being carried out by the State Government. There are 10 special schools, 5 in the public sector and another 5 in the private sector in the State for the disabled students including the blind, deaf, orthopaedically handicapped and mentally retarded. Besides free education, the students of these schools are being given a boarding allowance of Rs. 75 per month and uniform allowance of Rs. 50 annually.

The State Government is also giving concessions to the disabled children hailing from families of different income groups at various rates. The orthopaedically handicapped children have been completely exempted



Physiotherapy at the Home for Handicapped (Polio) children, Trivandrum. (Photo : B. Sankaran Nair)

from payment of fees. They are also eligible for uniform and equipment allowances. This concession has been extended to the blind and the deaf studying for technical courses.

Vocational Training Centres

There are 10 rescue centres functioning in the State of which 7 are for the handicapped and 3 for the mentally retarded children. A monthly grant to the tune of Rs. 85 each child is being paid to the inmates of these centres. Eight other centres for the mentally retarded children are also functioning in the State with the grant-in-aid provided by the Central Government. Four Vocational Training Centres are also functioning in Kerala where trainees are provided with a stipend at the rate of Rs. 60 per mensem. The State Government has also made arrangements to reserve 5 seats in each of the 12 Industrial Training Centres for the handicapped persons.

The Kerala Government has now decided to reserve 3 per cent of Class III and Class IV posts in Government service for the disabled viz. one per cent each for the blind, deaf and the orthopaedically handicapped. All disabled persons already in temporary service will be allowed to continue till the end of this year. By another decision of the Government, disabled persons who possess and use their own cars, scooters, motor cycles or three-wheelers are exempted from payment of vehicle tax for one year. This exemption is applicable to the blind, deaf and the orthopaedically handicapped.

In order to promote employment opportunities for the disabled in public service, the Government has relaxed age limit and has allowed grace marks in competitive examinations conducted by the Public Service Commission. Regarding other job opportunities, the State Government has evolved a scheme of giving financial assistance to the disabled for undertaking useful trade or vocation of their own choice. Voluntary organisations coming forward to start production units in aid of the disabled will get financial assistance upto Rs. 10,000. By another scheme launched by the State Government, handicapped women whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 1,800 will be given financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 500 each. So far 2,500 such women have benefitted by this scheme.

Handicapped Welfare Corporation

In Kerala, there is a separate corporation to look after the welfare of the disabled persons. The Handicapped Welfare Corporation has started a mini departmental store in Trivandrum and an extension counter attached to MLA Quarters. They are being managed by the handicapped. The Handicapped Welfare Corporation has started the artificial limb centre at Kottayam. It has also evolved a comprehensive scheme to give employment to the disabled persons by way of opening 1000 sales kiosks throughout the State.

One of the biggest public sector undertakings in the State, the Cochin Shipyard has taken up a programme for the improvement of the disabled persons. The Shipyard has so far employed 26 disabled persons. Of them, 19 are orthopaedically handicapped and 4 partially blind. Orthopaedically handicapped employees are engaged as clerks, stenographers, welders etc., and partially blind are employed as attenders and mazdoors. The shipyard has also reserved a certain quota for the disabled persons for undergoing training under the apprenticeship scheme in trades in which they can be suitably engaged without detriment to the safety of personnel and equipment.

A disabled person exercising his franchise



The Scheme taken up by the Kerala Telecommunication Circle is noteworthy. They have launched a programme of opening Public Call Offices in busy localities like bus stands, railway stations and hospitals throughout the State to be manned by the disabled persons on commission basis at the rate of 20 paise per call put through. Apart from getting income to the disabled persons, the Telecommunication authorities feel that this venture will also serve towards building up a sense of participation among the disabled persons.

The Disabled in

Maharashtra

for a Change

in Approach

Avinash Godbole*

IN tune with the motto of "With Full Cooperation and Equality" of the International Year for the Disabled the Government of Maharashtra has always treated the physically handicapped and the disabled on equal footing with others. Even before the advent of the International Year of the Disabled the State Government had embarked upon a new scheme on 2nd of October 1980 to help the disabled. Named after the late Shri Sanjay Gandhi the scheme helps the disabled and the destitutes in different ways. Loans and subsidies are given to them to set up small industries or buy necessary equipment to help them stand on their own feet. Those who are completely disabled due to physical handicap or old age are paid Rs. 60 per month.

There are a number of residential schools for the disabled and handicapped children in the age group of 6 to 17 where along with academic education vocational training is imparted. Full medical facilities are also available to the inmates.

For the disabled in 18—40 age group there are residential institutions at Aurangabad, Nagpur and Ulhas Nagar to give vocational training to make them self-supporting. The non-resident disabled attending these training schools are also given monetary help to buy artificial limbs and other equipment. Depending upon the income of the parents or the disabled himself this help is given on a graded scale as follows :—

Income per month	Percentage of cost of limbs or equipment to be paid to the beneficiary
1. Rs. 500 and above	Nil
2. Rs. 401 to 500	50
3. Rs. 301 to 400	80
4. Upto Rs. 300	90
5. In exceptional circumstances	100

Educational Facilities

Blind, dumb and deaf and disabled students in standard 1st to 8th are given scholarships by the State Government. The only condition is that the income of their parents must not exceed Rs. 4,800 per annum. Central Government scholarships are also available for further education after standard 8th. Disabled students whose parents' annual income is less than Rs. 9,000 are eligible for these scholarships. The amount of scholarship varies with the standard and the type of disability. The blind students are given reading and travelling allowances after the 9th standard.

Reservations in Jobs

To help the disabled in getting employment, 3 per cent of the Class III and Class IV vacancies in Government offices, public sector undertakings and local bodies are reserved for them. The age limit for employment is relaxed upto 45 years for the disabled. This facility is applicable to all posts under the jurisdiction of Maharashtra Public Service Commission and others. Age relaxation upto five years is also given to those appearing for the competitive examinations of the Public Service Commission.

Travelling Concession

The State Transport, which is the only public sector transport undertaking in the State, gives 75 per cent concession in fares to the disabled. This facility is available only for travel to and from the place of employment. The blind students also get this facility. It is given only on production of a certificate from the educational institutions in the case of students and from civil surgeon or other competent authority in the case of others. Even in other cities where there is municipal transport the blind are given 50 per cent concession in fare. In Pune the blind are allowed free travel in the municipal transport.

In order to make a disabled self-employed monetary grant upto Rs. 1,000 is given to him through the Director of Social Welfare. The State has also ordered local bodies to reserve some percentage of shops and kiosks for them.

Multipurpose Centres

As an experimental measure multi-purpose centres have been set up in Wardha, Beed, Sholapur and Jalgaon districts where education, training and medical help are given to the blind, deaf and dumb and other disabled under one roof. Trained teachers are appointed to look after different types of disabled. Specialised medical help is also available.

Private Institutions

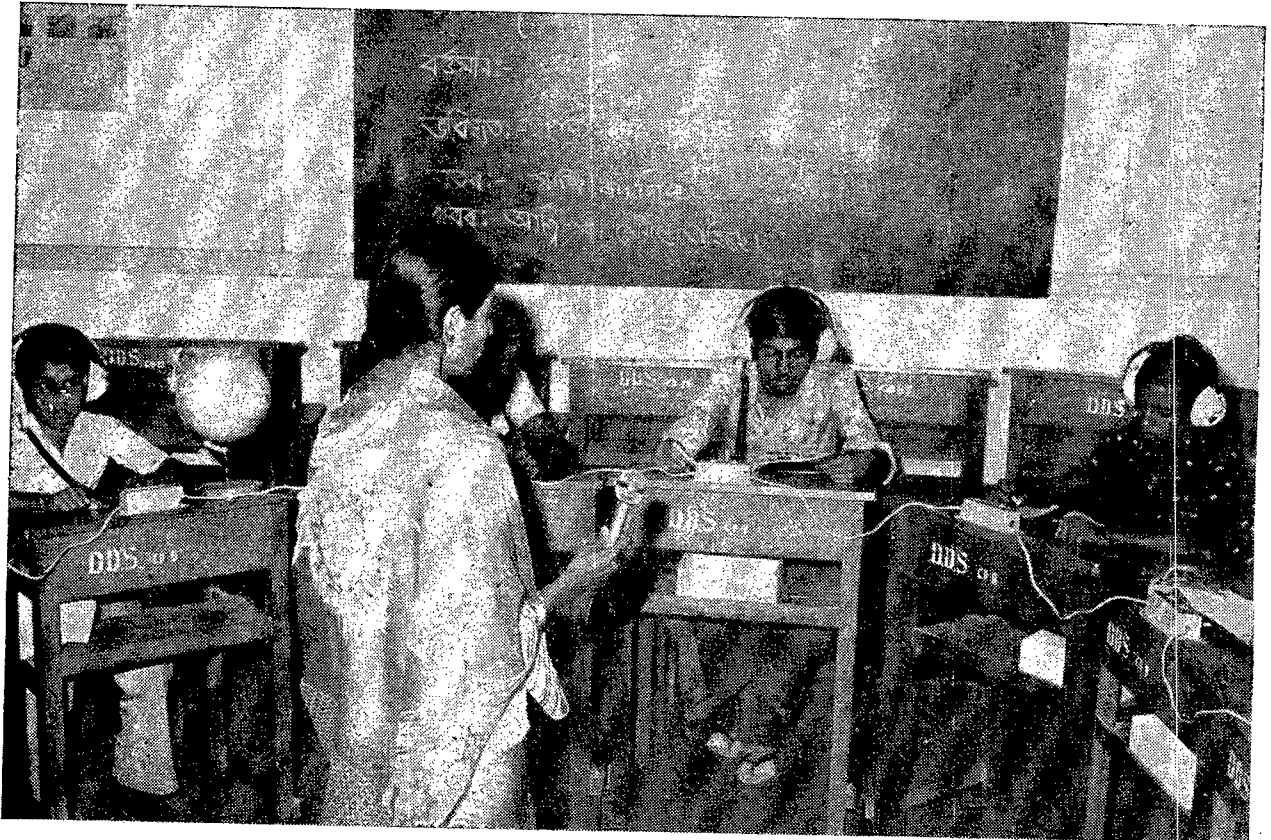
There are a number of private institutions in the State helping the blind and the dumb and the deaf. Some of the institutions, which have been started by

*Our Senior Correspondent Bombay.

philanthropists and charitable trusts, are more than 50 years old. There are quite a few institutions looking after the old and infirm who, though not physically handicapped, are disabled due to old age.

The problem of the disabled can never be solved by the State alone. Private and social institutions and social workers must come forward in larger numbers. The government gives liberal grants to institutions meant for the welfare of the handicapped and the disabled. But what is more important is to treat the disabled with equality and try to do away with

the inferiority complex which develops due to differential treatment given to them. With this end in view there is need for a change in approach towards them. There are instances where the blind or otherwise physically handicapped persons have risen to responsible positions by sheer dint of hard work and intelligence. It proves that even the disabled have strength and abilities equal to those of the able bodied ones. They, therefore, deserve treatment at par with others. □



A class room in a Govt. deaf and dumb school in Gauhati

Assam's Programme in IYDP

R. N. Bezbaruah*

ASSAM has chalked out a comprehensive programme to extend a helping hand to the helpless disabled persons so that they can lead a secure and useful life. The Assam Government, at the very beginning of the year of the disabled took over the blind school at Jorhat. So far 68 physically handicapped persons have been given prosthetic aids, while 295 such students were given suitable scholarships. A

school building at Gauhati for the mentally retarded children will soon be constructed at a cost of Rs. 1 lakh. The activities of the Sreemanta Sankar blind school and the attached workshop at Berhampur, Nowgong district, established a decade ago, will be intensified. Similarly other institutions like Society for the welfare of Blind, Gauhati, Jana-mangal Adarsha Andha Vidyalaya, Moranhat (Dibrugarh), Assam Andha Sishu Vidyalaya, Bihpuria (Lakhimpur) and Assam Deaf and Dumb Association, will be strengthen-

*Our Senior Correspondent, Gauhati.

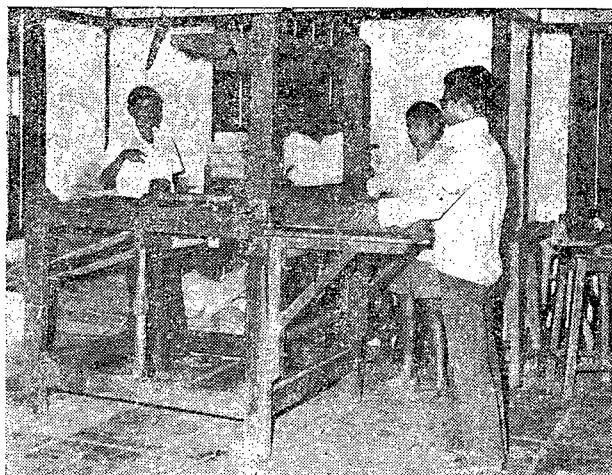
ed. In addition, the Assam State Social Welfare Advisory Board will establish a vocational training centre for the disabled in the State.

A State-level Committee has been set up to guide and formulate suitable policies for successful implementation of different schemes and programmes already on hand during the current international year. Meanwhile the State Social Welfare Department has prepared a broad based long term programme to be implemented during the 6th Five Year Plan as soon



A deaf and dumb teacher, Shri Bikash Chakrabarty receiving National Award for painting

as the green signal is received from the State Level Committee. The programme includes setting up of survey unit for collection of statistical information on physically handicapped, a special cell to be attached



Trainees at the book binding section of Nowgong Blind School

to the Social Welfare Directorate, Readers' allowances to disabled, escort allowances, grants-in-aid to institutions working for the uplift of disabled persons, vocational and rehabilitation centres, development of sheltered workshop for the blind and training of teachers.

In March last, a two-day colourful programme of sports, exhibition and cultural functions under the auspices of the Kamrup district council of child welfare, Gauhati mental welfare society and the Assam branch of the Indian Council of Child Welfare were held at Gauhati. Most of the participants, coming from all the districts of Assam, were blind, deaf, dumb and mentally retarded ones.

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Rehabilitation of the Disabled

In Tamil Nadu

Mrs. O. P. Sosamma *

THE era of technological progress whose notable contribution to human thought has probably been the development of a rational and scientific approach to many human problems, has revolutionised the traditional concept of disability. In today's world physical disability is no longer viewed as a scourge and it is increasingly being realised that given the right of opportunity the disabled can also play a very useful role in society. In fact, it has been rightly said that emphasis should be placed not on what a person lacks but on what he has. This, in essence, is the philosophy of modern rehabilitation services which aim at the complete integration of the handicapped individual into community.

In almost every country, including India, services for the handicapped were initiated by the missionary zeal of charitably disposed persons whose main concern was the alleviation of human suffering. The primary purpose of most of the early institutions was to provide a sanctuary for the disabled and to offer training in part-time occupations. Consequently, although educational and training institutions have existed in India for a few decades, it is only during the last few years that a concerted effort has begun to be made to place handicapped persons in remunerative occupations—a step which is of paramount importance for their socio-economic rehabilitation.

Tamil Nadu one of the earliest States to provide rehabilitation services to the handicapped. Initially only the voluntary agencies and service organisation started rendering service in the field of education and training. The school for blind at Palayamkottai, which was started in 1890, is one of the oldest institutions for the handicapped in the country. The Govt. school for the Blind at Poonamalle, which is now managed by the Government, also came into existence as a joint effort of Madras Association for the Blind and the Victory Memorial Committee in 1930. But the voluntary effort was confined mostly to the field of education and it was also found to be inadequate for

the needs of the handicapped. The Government realised the need and urgency for extension of these services in other areas and hence slowly started establishing schools for the handicapped in different places of the State. At present there are 45 institutions for the handicapped in the State of which 20 are Government managed institutions. Most of the privately managed institutions are, given financial aid by the Government.

Training

The Government also realized the need for providing vocational training to the handicapped and, therefore, started the Light Engineering Project for the Adult Blind at Guindy in the Year 1967. In the middle of the seventies the modern training-cum-production workshop for the physically handicapped was started at Muttukadu and a Rehabilitation Home for Blind women was also started in the Year 1978.

An institution for the mentally retarded is also to be established shortly by the Government. A Regional Rehabilitation Centre for the handicapped on the pattern of Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Physically handicapped run by Government of India is also being established at Madurai which will undertake evaluation and placement of the handicapped on scientific and systematic lines. A production-cum-weaving cooperative for the blind has also been sanctioned by the Government, which when established will rehabilitate 120 blind in self-employment.

The Government Institute of Rehabilitation and Artificial Limb Centre at Madras and the Artificial Limb Sub-Centres at Madurai, Coimbatore and Thaniavur provide valuable service in the field of medical rehabilitation of the physically handicapped by supplying artificial limbs and appliances. Similarly the recently established Institute for speech and hearing at the Government General Hospital, Madras, services those with speech and hearing impairments.

Besides providing medical and vocational rehabilitation services to the physically handicapped by establishing Institutions, the handicapped individuals are assisted in their medical, economic and social

*Director of Social Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu

rehabilitation through various schemes of the Government. Free supply of hearing aids to poor deaf children, of tri-cycles to poor orthopaedically handicapped, of wheel chairs to paraplegic patients and of calipers to poor orthopaedically handicapped children are on-going programmes of the Government aiming at medical rehabilitation and every year thousands of persons are benefited by these schemes.

Employment

In recent years, the economic rehabilitation of the handicapped is also receiving special attention of the Government. Two important schemes for this are now being implemented by the Government. One of the schemes seeks to assist the handicapped for setting up of bunk stalls in different places in the State by arranging loan assistance from Banks and with the Governmental subsidy of Rs. 500 to each handicapped beneficiary. The objective of the Government is to rehabilitate 1000 handicapped persons under this self-employment programme. As per the other scheme of economic rehabilitation each trained handicapped who registered his name at the employment exchange is placed as an apprentice in an industrial establishment on Rs. 150 per month as stipend during the period of one year of apprenticeship and the employer is to absorb the candidate on completion of apprenticeship. So far about 250 persons have benefited under this programme. The Government aim to place 1500 trained handicapped in suitable employment under this special apprenticeship programme.

Scholarship is also given to the physically handicapped to enable them to pursue their studies or training course or other vocational course. About 1000 handicapped get the benefit under this scheme for which funds are provided by the Central Govt.

The Tamil Nadu Government have instituted State Award to the best employers of the handicapped, the most efficient handicapped employees, best teachers of the handicapped and the institution which trains the largest number of the handicapped.

The Government have also reserved the post of lift operators in Government departments, Government undertakings and Local Bodies exclusively for the handicapped.

Free bus passes have been given to the handicapped in the buses of Pallavan Transport Corporation in Madras, for their journey to the institution and hospitals and back. This travel concession is likely to be extended to the handicapped in the districts also.

The Government also felt that a separate advisory set-up is necessary to provide guidance on the problems of the handicapped. So a State Board for Handicapped was created with the Minister for Social Welfare as Chairman. The Board with its nucleus staff serves as the advisory agency on matters relating to the handicapped and also plays a role in executing the programmes of the Government, functioning under the administrative control of the Director of Social Welfare.

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Kumari Asha Shah is deaf and dumb but she has picked up hosiery stitching work in a short training course.

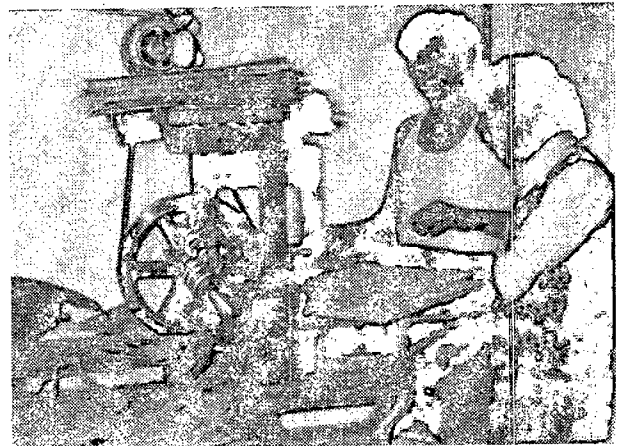


A blind trainee is enthusiastically wrapping soap cakes.

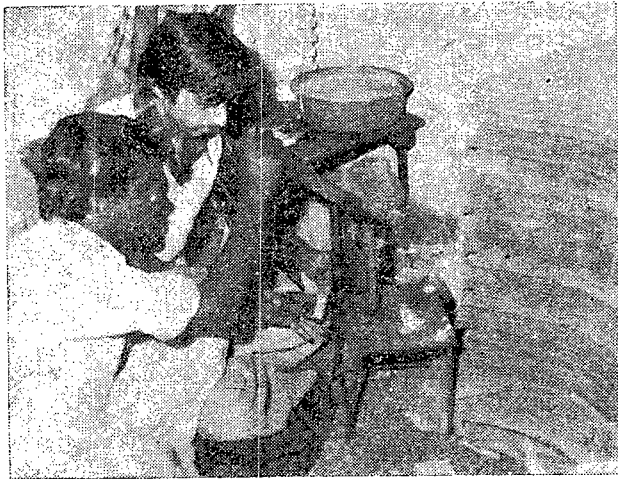
Indore Institute Serves the Disabled

P. S. Mehta

THE year 1981 is being observed as the International Year for the Disabled Persons to improve the socio-economic conditions of those suffering from physical disabilities. To give practical shape to the idea of making them self-reliant and competent to handle varied types of technical jobs in an efficient manner, the small Industries Service Institute, Indore, has organised training courses in such fields as packing of hosiery products, printing press, stamping and packing work in soap factories, and card-board box manufacturing. Seventeen disabled persons availed of this training organised with the collaboration of ten local small scale units including the Capital Hosiery Manufacturing Company, Indore. It was observed during the training that deaf and dumb persons could efficiently perform bleaching, dyeing, knitting and stitching work in hosiery factories. Similarly, blind persons could do packing work in soap factories and work in card-board box manufacturing units. Besides, it was found that disabled persons could handle various jobs in printing presses.



A blind person is being trained to handle creasing machine for manufacture of cardboard boxes.



A disabled person is undergoing training in corner cutting and punching the card-board boxes.

Helping the Handicapped

NAROTTAM LAL BHAI Rural Development Fund is a public charitable trust for specific programmes of rural development. It also imparts specific training in professional skills for field level workers involved in rural development.

In April it organised a seven-day workshop in Ahmedabad to train field workers. About 30 field level workers working for rural development in Gujarat participated in this workshop. Various aspects of rural development were discussed in the workshop. Experts in the field of communication, rural programmes, animal husbandry, management etc. participated in the programme as Resource Persons and observers. One of the unique features of the workshop was that the participants were provided with useful package information on cultivation of certain type of crops health and nutrition and cottage industries.

As a part of the International Year of the Disabled N.L.R.D.F. in collaboration with Blindman's Association, Ahmedabad organised an exhibition in April at Bilamana, Dehgam Taluka, Ahmedabad District. The exhibition was organised with a view to create an awareness among rural people about what the handicapped can do when given appropriate training. The

The training programmes afforded an opportunity to the Institute to study the aptitudes of the disabled persons. The study revealed that blind persons have a very strong touch sense and also the ability to respond to the minutest audiostimulations. Deaf and dumb have an irrepressible sense of expression and are very suitable for jobs involving artistic pursuits and creativity. Similarly the crippled have shown aptitude to perform various types of work, depending on the nature of disability.

The Institute, has published a guide book for entrepreneurial development in Braille script for the benefit of blind entrepreneurs. It gives details of the facilities and incentives available from various developmental agencies as also the procedures to be followed for setting up small scale units.

exhibition also highlighted causes of handicaps. Along with the exhibition, work demonstrations by blind and orthopaedically handicapped were organised. Various competitions for handicapped children were also held.

As a follow up programme of the exhibition NLRDF organised a one-day medical camp to give medical advice to orthopaedically handicapped. At Dehgam Primary Health Centre two Orthopaedic Surgeons from Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad checked up the patients and advised suitable medical treatment and rehabilitation. About 130 persons came to the health centre for a check up. Most of the cases were between the ages of 10 to 16 years. And most of them were afflicted with polio. Most of the cases had received no previous medical treatment. In some cases two to three members from the same family had attack of polio due to virus infection. The Narottam Lalbhai Rural Development Fund Medical Staff have prepared detailed case records of each patient which includes cause of handicap, line of treatment etc. They will go to each village and contact the patients and send them for required surgery. Those patients who require only physiotherapy will also be given suitable treatment. □

Paralysis is no Limitation

SHRI Madan Lal, a youngman of Kheri district, has been able to thwart the crippling effects of paralysis on his day-to-day life. He is earning his livelihood decently by running a grocery shop. Born 25 years ago in a very poor washerman's family in village Kethi Purwa under Bankeganj C.D. Block in Kheri district, he fell victim to an attack of paralysis at the age of 10 and lost both his legs. Intensive medical treatment could not cure him and he had to accept the cruel reality ultimately. To his misfortune he could also not attend school because of acute poverty in the family. Being the eldest son in the family, there were heavy demands on him to support his brothers and sisters.

Finding himself physically incapable of doing the traditional family business of washing clothes, Shri Madan Lal decided to try an idea. He borrowed about Rs. 1,000 from some of his sincere friends and set up a small grocery shop in the nearby town of Gola Gokaran Nath. Earnestness of efforts and hard labour bore fruits and he started earning enough to support his family. Appreciating his sincere efforts, the State Bank of India branch at Bankeganj has also advanced him recently a loan of Rs. 1,000 to enable him to augment his earnings. Ever cheerful Madan Lal recalls the sweet memories of his strides and declares with confidence, "You always have a way, provided you have the will". □

F.P.O. Lakhimpur Kheri



The Superintendent of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Madras, explaining activities of the Centre to a Visitor

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre at Madras

I. Esakky*

THE Vocational Rehabilitation Centre (VRC) at Madras started in 1976 is one of the 11 Centres set up by the Central Government with the sole aim of assisting the handicapped in getting self-employed or employment in Central Government Offices and undertakings through various vocational training schemes.

The Centre admits the deaf, blind and orthopaedically handicapped students of employable age after administering various tests of intelligence, aptitude and psychomotor abilities. Then they are medically examined to find out the extent of disability so that remedial measures can be worked out. On the basis of these findings, a rehabilitation plan is drawn for each individual. The evaluation process takes one month. A stipend of Rs. 70 is paid during this period. At present the Centre imparts training in cutting and tailoring, radio and television, metal, carpentry and commercial trades.

The VRC so far evaluated 3431 handicapped persons and gave training in different technical institutions to 747. It also procured financial assistance, at concessional rates of interest, of about Rs. 6,36,901 to 383 physically handicapped persons for starting self-employment.

The Centre has so far procured appliances worth Rs. 36,297 through voluntary agencies. The Centre sends the inmates for training to regular training institutions. Those, who are not qualified to undergo such training, are trained in factories. They gain required skills and get stipends of Rs. 100.

The Madras Centre, brought together 22 blind persons to form a cooperative society to take up job orders in recaning of chairs. The share capital for the society was advanced by the Indian Overseas Bank. The Centre expanded the cooperative movement by including two more units—the Transformer Winding Unit and the Screen Printing Unit. Twelve persons have been given employment by these two units. The Lions Club of Madras has constructed a building at a cost of Rs. 50,000 and placed it at the disposal of this Centre for the use of the cooperative society. Special instructions have since been issued to both the State and Central Government offices to engage this society exclusively for recaning of chairs.

A special training seminar was organised by the VRC Madras. The ways and means of manufacturing low cost aids for the severely disabled persons were discussed in this seminar. The Centre has identified 125 jobs suitable for the handicapped.

The Centre has organised three Rehabilitation Camps to give an opportunity to the public to do whatever little they can to alleviate the suffering of these neglected brethren of our nation. □

Our Senior Correspondent,
Madras

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Facilities Provided by The Social Welfare Boards for the Handicapped



Gujarat

IN Gujarat at the time of bifurcation from the bilingual Bombay State, there were 20 institutions of the disabled persons. The number has since risen to 65 institutions. The present programmes for education, training and rehabilitation of the physically handicapped in the State are encouraging and provide the base for future development. The categorywise classification of the institutions is as under :

Category	Government	Voluntary	Total
Blind	3	19	22
Deaf and Dumb	3	19	22
Orthopaedically Handicapped	2	4	6
Mentally retarded	2	13	15
TOTAL	10	55	65

In most of the schools for blind education upto S.S.C. is being given. Vocational training is simultaneously given to the blind students. Separate vocational training centres for the adult blind are also run which provide courses approved by the Technical Education Department. The training programme includes elementary carpentry, caning, handloom and powerloom weaving, book binding, coir work, light engineering, armature winding, general machines, lathe work etc.

Training is imparted both in vocal and instrumental music. Two schools are specially recognised as secondary schools for the blind and two schools are functioning as technical schools for the blind. In order to create better employment opportunities for the blind two multi-category workshops at Ahmedabad and Jamnagar are functioning. There is one Training College for the Teachers for the Blind. In one of the existing blind schools, training in physio-therapy is being imparted. One Braille Press has been started at Ahmedabad. There is one Talking Book Library and braille library which provide required literature to the blind persons. In one of the Secondary schools, Integrated Education for the Blind has been introduced.

Vocational training is being imparted in tailoring and embroidery, printing and binding, carpentry and drawing and commercial painting, photography etc. Two audiology centres are attached with the schools at Rajkot and Bhavnagar, which provide diagnostic facilities. One more Audiology Centre is proposed to be set up. One centre provides vocational training to the adult deaf.

Out of the 6 institutions for the orthopaedically handicapped, two are sheltered Workshops which provide vocational training and one is specialised for training to the leprosy affected persons. The other two institutions are the Homes for the Crippled Children run by State Government which provide

residential facilities during pre and post-operation periods. They are also provided with educational facilities and training in some crafts. One voluntary institution also provides such facilities. The Indian Red Cross Society, Ahmedabad Branch runs an Artificial Limb Centre, Hostel for Working Handicapped and physiotherapy centre at Ahmedabad. Besides, Rehabilitation centres are attached with the V. S. Hospital, Ahmedabad and S.S.G. Hospital, Vadodara.

Out of the 15 institutions for the Mentally Retarded 10 are Day Schools and 5 are residential institutions. The State runs one Mental Hygiene Clinic at Ahmedabad which provides diagnosis, treatment and play-room services. One more similar clinic will be started on voluntary basis at Navsari by Indian Red Cross Society this year. The B. M. Institute at Ahmedabad provides diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation services to both children and adults. This institution also runs a Multi-category Workshop. The State runs two Homes for Mentally Retarded Children at Vadodra and Rajkot. It is proposed to start separate girls sections in these schools. One Day School for Mentally Retarded Girls provides training in crafts and house-keeping.

Majority of these institutions are residential and provide free lodging and boarding facilities along with education and training to physically handicapped persons. The total number of beneficiaries of these institutions were 1106 blind, 1720 deaf, 496 orthopaedically handicapped and 366 mentally retarded persons during the year 1979-80.

One of the Secondary Schools in Ahmedabad run by the public Trust has also introduced the integrated Education for Blind Girls wherein 17 blind girls are taking education from 8th Std. to 10th Std. with other sighted girls of the school. Efforts are being made to persuade the educational institutions to introduce the scheme of integrated education for physically handicapped children in their institutions. Recently, the Government of India have revised this scheme and it has been made applicable to schools situated in rural areas also. This scheme will not be implemented by Education Department.

Both the Central and State Governments provide scholarships to the disabled students. It is proposed to cover all the eligible students during I.Y.D.P. under this scheme.

Financial assistance for prosthetic aids and appliances and starting petty trades, are being sanctioned to the physically handicapped persons for their rehabilitation.

The voluntary agencies have played an important role for the development of services for the handicapped. The State has encouraged the voluntary agencies by liberalising the grant-in-aid pattern. The voluntary institutions are also getting Central assistance.

There are four Special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped at Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat and Vadora. The Government have also reserved 4 per cent of the class III and IV category of posts for physically handicapped. The State has instituted awards to outstanding employers of the disabled and the most efficient disabled employees. There is also a scheme for giving maintenance allowance to the disabled.

The Mill Owners' Association of Ahmedabad has agreed to employ 3 handicapped persons in each Textile Mill in Ahmedabad.

Physically handicapped employees are given 10 per cent conveyance allowance of their basic pay, limited to Rs. 50 p.m.

A quota of 3 per cent is also reserved for all the categories of physically handicapped persons in the houses constructed by the Gujarat Housing Board. House-sites are also provided to the poor blind.

The State Government has appointed a State Level Committee to consider and finalise the State Plan of action for the I.Y.D.P. 1981 and to review its implementation from time to time under the Chairmanship of Minister of State Social Welfare. The State has formulated schemes under I.Y.D.P. for the welfare and rehabilitation of the handicapped. The State Government has provided Rs. 70 lakhs for the welfare programmes of the physically handicapped during the Sixth Five Year Plan and Rs. 28 lakhs for the year 1981-82.

Uttar Pradesh

Dr. (Miss) Kanchanlata Sabharwal

THE Uttar Pradesh State Social Welfare Board maintains close liaison and coordination with the voluntary welfare and social service organisations through which welfare activities for the disabled are being carried on in the various regions of the State. About 50 organisations are engaged in this sacred task, out of which the following deserve mention :

1. Rotary Sponsored Youth Welfare Society, Allahabad.
2. Kritrim Ang Pratyaropan Kendra (Artificial Limb Plantation Centre) Lucknow.
3. Kusht Seva Ashram, Gorakhpur.
4. Baba Raghav Das Kusht Seva Ashram, Devaria.
5. Kusht Seva Ashram, Basiyaram, Azamgarh.
6. Chetna, Niralanga, Lucknow.
7. School for the Deaf and Dumb, Lucknow.
8. Sharpe Memorial School, Rajpur Road, Dehradun.
9. Nanhi Duniya Dahir Vidyalaya, Dehradun.
10. Cheshire Foundation Home for Sick in India, Dehradun.
11. Navin Seva Asram, Karela Bagh-Allahabad.
12. Uttar Pradesh Branch, Indian Social Welfare Council Lucknow.
13. Bal Kalyan Aavam Anusandhan Parishad-Lucknow Jagriti Vihar (Mand Budhi Siksha Kendra).
14. Gandhi Netra Chikitsalaya-Aligarh. (Gandhi Eye Hospital).
15. Eye Hospital, Sitapur.
16. Purvachal Seva Ashram, Devaria.
17. Viklan Purnavas Samiti, Kanpur.
18. Manglam Royal Hotel, Lucknow.

The funds given through the Uttar Pradesh State Social Welfare Board to the organisation for the welfare of the disabled are as follows :

1. Deaf and Dumb	Rs. 25,000
2. Blind and affected by eye diseases	Rs. 84,000

3. Physically Disabled	Rs. 14,500
4. Mentally Retarded	Rs. 7,000
5. Rehabilitation of Patients cured of leprosy and TB	Rs. 27,000
6. Rehabilitation of the disabled (socio-economic unit)	Rs. 3,23,530

Legal Protection to the Disabled

As a matter of fact, there is utter paucity of laws, rules and Acts relating to the disabled in our country. Except such laws as the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912 and Indian Leprosy Act, 1898 no other material is available. These laws are very old and out of date. To provide legal protection to almost all types of the disabled persons, we have forwarded to the Uttar Pradesh Department of Law on May 8, 1981, various suggestions and recommendations for legal opinion. These are under the consideration of the Government.

A proposal to set up a Relief Board for the Disabled to go into all aspects of extending relief and rehabilitation to these people has been sent to the U. P. Government so that we could help in utilising the desired facilities and find ways and means from time to time to solve their problems and also help in enforcing the laws, by-laws and other regulations in this regard.

Employment

The Government of India has reserved 3 per cent posts in suitable categories for the disabled but they do not get employment in the real sense. Constant efforts has been made in this direction and strong recommendations to provide them suitable jobs on priority basis in the education and other departments, have been sent to the concerned departments, schools etc.

With the beginning of the year of the Disabled, the the Uttar Pradesh Social Welfare Board, through the courtesy of the Textile Corporation's Marketing Division, Kanpur, set up temporary sales centres of cloth to be manned by disabled in Lucknow and Kanpur. These centres were intended to inspire the blind and the disabled to become self-reliant. This scheme provided on an average Rs. 10 per day to every handicapped person employed and they set an example of good work by attaining a sale of cloth worth rupees one lakh. Some of them are still engaged in this work but they are not getting the full quantity of controlled cloth. If proper arrangements are made for the supply of controlled cloth to them, it will greatly help them stand on their own feet.

Since the beginning of the year, we have organised a number of seminars in collaboration with other organisations such as U.P. Branches of Indian Social Welfare Council and National Federation of Blind. Two of these were held at Gandhi Bhawan, Lucknow, one at Barabanki and one at Bhatara village in district Gonda. New ways and means are being explored to provide help and relief to the disabled through these meetings and discussions held from time to time. Meanwhile a meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on July, 2, 1981, at the headquarters of the State Social Welfare Board in Lucknow to discuss the problems of the disabled and their solutions, in which, apart from the representatives of the Board and the State Social Welfare Department, representatives of the disabled also participated. □

Mizoram

THE Mizoram State Social Welfare Advisory Board has been laying emphasis on educating the people regarding the plight of the handicapped persons and the responsibility of the society towards them. So far six public meetings have been held in different places at which the Chairman and the Members of the State Board and other leading social workers and social welfare administrator addressed the meetings explaining significance of the IYDP. Also, appeals were made to the people to have sympathetic attitude towards all kinds of handicapped persons in the society besides generously contributing in cash or kind to alleviate the misery of such persons. Programmes of talks and discussions are being held twice a month through the kind courtesy of All India Radio, Aizawl. Posters and hoardings have been displayed in every village of Mizoram. Slides are screened in cinema halls all over Mizoram, appealing to the people to take a humanitarian approach towards their unfortunate brethren. All the branches of Mizoram Hmeichhe Insuihkhawn Pawl (Mizoram Women's Federation) have been requested to organise a house to house campaign in their localities to educate people regarding the need for helping the handicapped persons.

Regarding programmes for rehabilitating individual disabled persons, the following measures are being contemplated :

(1) To open 10 Craft Centres in rural areas for training handicapped women in suitable trades. (2) To set up a residential school for handicapped persons at Aizawl. A few selected disabled persons from different parts of Mizoram will be housed in this school. They will be given vocational training besides general education. (3) An appeal has been made to all the granted institutions under this Board to collect donations from their respective localities by organising fairs, fetes, etc. The response so far has been very good and it is expected that the collection will improve further in the coming months. Efforts are also being made to collect funds through cinema shows, variety shows, selling orange juice etc.

The meeting of voluntary organisations and Board members held in January 1981 had decided to request the State Government (a) to give old-age pension to all disabled persons above the age of 55 years and (b) to request the State Government to establish a deaf and dumb school in Mizoram.

Orissa

A STATE level committee has been formed in Orissa to consider the needs of disabled and handicapped persons and to mobilise popular support for their relief. The State level committee consists of 27 members and the Chairman of State Social Welfare Advisory Board (Dr. Smt. Belarani Dutta) is one of them. The State Minister for Rural Reconstruction is the Chairman of the committee.

The State Board has taken up survey of disabled handicapped persons through voluntary institutions. Such lists received so far from voluntary institutions

have been sent to state Govt. and Governor for favour of kind consideration. Enumeration is still in progress. Many institutions and disabled persons are approaching the Board for artificial limbs, jobs in the Government, training facility and also for their maintenance. The Board has advised them to apply for sanction of grant-in-aid. These cases will be considered by the Board on priority basis. Some schemes have been sent to Central Social Welfare Board for sanction.

The State Board has suggested to State Government to start centres for the disabled in each district headquarters. The strength of each centre will be 100 disabled persons. Training shall be given to them according to their ability and age. It has been suggested to relax age and educational qualification for the disabled persons applying for Government service. Free supply of artificial limbs and medical treatment should be given to the poor disabled persons having less than Rs. 2000 as annual income. Provision of stipend etc. for disabled students should be made in Government institutions. These proposals are now under the active consideration of the Government.

The State Board has started a training centre for the disabled persons at the State capital, Bhubaneswar.

During the year 1981, sixty institutions of the State got sanction of holiday home programme. Out of these, 18 institutions were selected to camp outside the State, at Delhi and Calcutta. Each institution was asked to take atleast five disabled persons as campers, which they have complied with. The institutions who camped at Delhi with some disabled persons met our beloved Prime Minister and got her blessings on 15th June, 1981.

A special issued of 'Samaj Kalyan' of State Board was published for the year of the disabled on 18th March, 1981.

Haryana

THE Haryana State Social Welfare Board provides financial assistance for social welfare activities at the district level and encourages numerous voluntary organisations for welfare work for the disabled and children. Details of these organisations are given below :

Blind Relief Association Hissar.—The State Social Welfare Board is giving to this organisation an annual grant of Rs. 5,000 for the welfare of 75 children. All these children are physically handicapped. Besides, under the socio-economic programme, this organisation is receiving a grant of Rs. 24,000 for the weaving Unit, for the training of 12 disabled children so that they could get employment. It is heartening that under this programme these disabled children are getting Rs. 150-200 per month and have been able to look after themselves.

SD Institute for Blind-Ambala Cantt.—This organisation is getting Rs. 5,000 every year as grant for the welfare of disabled blind and poor children. Fifty children are getting benefit from this organisation. During the year of the Disabled, the organisation has been sanctioned a grant of Rs. 68,270 for setting up a Production Unit for the physically handicapped children. Under this scheme, 16 children will benefit.

Bal Sewa Ashram (Bhiwani Orphanage).—The State Board is giving an annual grant of Rs. 4,600 for welfare of 60 disabled, poor and orphan children. The Ashram makes these children self-reliant by providing them suitable work or financial help and tries to get them an honourable place in society later by arranging their marriage on attaining marriageable age and providing employment. The organisation is also receiving grants from other Departments.

Shardhanand Orphanage, Karnal.—The State Board is giving a grant of Rs. 4,200 every year to this orphanage for providing food and clothes to the disabled orphan children. About 70 girls are benefiting from this. The orphanage is also receiving grants from the State and Union Governments and enabling the children to earn their own livelihood.

Saket Council, Chandi Mandir.—The State Board was giving a grant of Rs. 5,000 every year since the beginning for the welfare of orthopaedically handicapped children, because according to rules, the State Board cannot give a grant of more than Rs. 5,000. Therefore, the organisation after extending its programmes, has started getting grant for the disabled children from the Central Government so that there could be full development of children. The organisation is also running a printing press with the help of the State Government.

Various welfare programmes for the disabled during the Year of the Disabled and the Sixth Five Year Plan are being discussed with the Central Social Welfare Board. They are expected to be finalised soon.

Presently, the State Board is running a vocational training programme for the disabled and physically handicapped, so that not only they are rehabilitated but could also be provided with jobs to enable them to earn. The State Board is considering a proposal to organise vacation camps for disabled children so that they do not consider themselves in any way inferior to others.

The State Board is also thinking of holding conferences/seminars so that disability among men, women and children due to accidents could be avoided. The Board is also considering to organise eye camps and giving grants to social organisations for purchasing artificial limbs.

Delhi

Delhi Social Welfare Advisory Board has been assisting over 150 voluntary welfare organisations working in and around the union territory of Delhi, out of which 16 institutions are engaged exclusively in the welfare of the handicapped persons. The services include residential homes for the blind, orthopaedically handicapped, recreation centres, holiday camps, income-generating projects, vocational guidance centres etc.

The number of beneficiaries including handicapped and disabled has crossed the 20,000 mark. Under the holiday home programme, the Board has, in 1980-81, sanctioned 30 camps in all. Out of these, six camps were sanctioned to the institutions working for the handicapped and disabled persons and three to orphanages.

Special emphasis is being laid to cover the maximum number of beneficiaries in respect of handicapped people. In addition, special programmes/suggestions have been made for IYDP :



A disabled child being taught to use his limbs

1. Social Awareness Programmes to be undertaken to focus the attention of the community on the problems of the disabled. Films dealing with the lives of important personalities like Helen Keller, etc., be shown to the public.
2. Preparation of an information booklet for Delhi, which would contain all useful information about the various welfare programmes in existence, the number of institutions, governmental and non-governmental, workings in this field, etc.
3. Institutions undertaking programmes for the disabled be given top priority and the condition of 3 years experience be waived.
4. An exhibition of items produced by the different categories of disabled persons be organised by the Board.
5. Educational facilities for all categories of physically handicapped could be provided to ensure free compulsory primary education. The Delhi Administration may be requested to consider the proposal of opening special primary and pre-primary classes for disabled children, in normal schools.
6. Relaxation of academic qualifications for the handicapped persons who are in service for a long time as facilities for high school education/higher education are hardly available.
7. Abolition of sales tax on hearing aids and other appliances for the handicapped people.

Pondicherry

The Pondicherry State Social Welfare Advisory Board continues to administer financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 5,000 under the General-Grant-in-Aid Programme of the Central Social Welfare Board to Blind Relief Association which is a Voluntary Welfare Institution taking care of 14 adult, blind man-inmates who do mat weaving.

During 1981-82 the State Board proposes to aid one voluntary organisation which has applied for a grant of Rs. 10,000 for starting a Home whereby 20 handicapped persons would be benefited.

Under its socio-economic programme the Central Social Welfare Board has sanctioned grant to the extent of Rs. 31,730 to Thiaga Oli Social Service Society which has started a chalk making unit where there are 18 beneficiaries. Out of them 12 are handicapped persons.

The Board has applied to the Govt. for a grant of Rs. 15,000 for the disabled, for purchase/fitting of

aids/appliances, supply of wheel chairs, or brace and a splint to the physically handicapped persons. The Rotary Club, pondicherry has provided three-wheelers to three handicapped persons.

Tripura

A voluntary organisation of north Tripura district has been receiving financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 5000 per annum from the Tripura State Social Welfare Advisory Board for maintaining a 'Deaf and Dumb School' at Kailashahar with an enrolment of 10 handicapped children at present. A proposal for increasing the number of students to 20 and the amount of financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 15,000 per annum under the Plan period programme administered by the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi for the year 1981-82 is under active consideration.

A handicapped female candidate has been appointed to a scale regulated post of Gram-Sevika. It has recently been decided by the State Board to give employment to atleast another two handicapped female candidates.

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Facilities Provided by The Public Sector Undertakings for the Handicapped

Hindustan Photo Films

THE Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd., was established in the year 1960 to manufacture sensitized photographic materials comprising essentially raw cine films, X-ray films and other photographic items which were then imported. The Company has its modern factory at Uthagamandalam on the Nilgris Hills and also at Ambattur, Madras, both in Tamil Nadu. This is one of the six leading factories of its kind in the world. The company went into production in 1967.

Quite aware of its social obligations specially in the field of employment of the physically handicapped persons, the Management of HPF systematically trains the disabled and assigns them responsible jobs in sensitized areas of the factory. The Company has extended special facilities to the handicapped by providing them free transport, subsidized meals, exemption from night shifts, etc.

The Company has so far employed 54 physically Handicapped persons consisting of 30 blind, 21 orthopaedically handicapped and 3 deaf and dumb, apart from engaging 4 physically handicapped apprentices in the various trades under the Special Apprentice Scheme introduced by Government of Tamil Nadu. The Company has plans to employ as many physically handicapped persons as possible during this year, the International Year for the Disabled Persons.



Another disabled person at work at HPFL

The Company has also bagged the following awards : (1) National Award given by the President for outstanding employer of Physically Handicapped in 1978 and again recently on 27th March, 1981 (2) Tamil Nadu Government Award for the outstanding employer of Physically Handicapped in the area of blind for 1979 and for 1981.

ECIL

Electronic Corporation of India (ECIL) has always taken a humanitarian consideration regarding the placement and rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. In cooperation with the national and local Institutions, the Corporation is constantly exploring avenues where the services of the physically handicapped can be utilised. When such areas are located and handicapped persons with necessary skills are available, every effort is made to provide them with gainful employment. The categorywise breakup of the 78 handicapped persons working at the ECIL is as follows :—

Blind	: 5	(Including 1 partially blind)
Deaf and Dumb	: 27	
Orthopaedic	: 46	

TOTAL : 78



A disabled person working at Hindustan Photo Films Ltd.

The total man-power at the end of May 1981 being 6738, the percentage of disabled employees to the total number of employees works out to 1.2 per cent.

During the first quarter of 1981, no action to recruit physically handicapped was possible because of the strike by the workmen of ECIL. However, during the second quarter of 1981, ECIL could employ one partially blind and two orthopaedically handicapped. Apart from the above, offers have been issued to two more orthopaedically handicapped. The company has also located areas, where handicapped could be employed gainfully and 1981 being the "International Year for the Disabled Persons" efforts will be made to employ maximum number of handicapped persons.

Besides, relaxation of recruitment norms such as age, qualification etc. for handicapped persons, many welfare facilities are also being provided in deserving cases, some of which include :

- (i) In respect of three physically handicapped employees separate sitting facilities are provided at the workspot to enable them to do the work without and hardship.
- (ii) All orthopaedically handicapped employees are allowed to punch their time cards 10 minutes earlier to the scheduled time while going out, to facilitate them to reach the Company bus boarding point in time.
- (iii) Preference in the allotment of residential accommodation in the housing colony is given to handicapped on humanitarian consideration irrespective of the seniority.
- (iv) In two cases, financial assistance has been provided from the welfare fund of the Corporation for correction of the eye defects.
- (v) In respect of one orthopaedically handicapped employee, a specially designed tricycle has been provided to facilitate him to reach the workshop without any hardship after reaching the factory premises by the Company's transport facility.
- (vi) In three deserving cases of physical handicapped, orthopaedic aids such as calipers and crutches have also been provided.
- (vii) Free transport facility has been extended to those who are either blind or orthopaedically handicapped with minimum of 40 per cent permanent partial disability or deformity of both upper and lower extremities.

The handicapped employees work in an atmosphere which is conducive to their growth. A number of awards that have come their way testify to this :

- (i) Shri Shyamala Raju and Shri Khaja Imanuddin have secured the "best worker award" from the Indian Society of the Disabled (1976).
- (ii) Shri Mohd. Abdul Sattar received the National award for his outstanding performance

as a "very efficient physically handicapped employee" from the President of India (National Awards for Physically Handicapped—1978).

- (iii) Shri V. Premkumar received the National Award for "outstanding physically handicapped employee in the category of deaf" from the President of India (National Awards for Handicapped—1979).
- (iv) S/Shri K. Maruthi Prasad (Deaf and Dumb) and Ranjit Singh (Blind) have received the "best worker award" from the Government of Andhra Pradesh (State Award—1980).

It may also be pertinent to mention here that ECIL has also been given "Outstanding employer award for employing physically handicapped personnel" from the Government of Andhra Pradesh (State Award) in 1975 and 1976 and by the Government of India (National Award) in 1977 and 1979.

Computer Maintenance Corporation

Computer Maintenance Corporation Ltd. (CMC) is a public sector undertaking with a commitment to computer users and society. During the International Year of the Child, 30 projects were sponsored, of which 7 major projects pertained to physically handicapped children and 4 concerned the education of rural children. The projects included funds towards purchase of a bus for transporting physically handicapped children to their school, purchase of hearing aids and other equipment for blind, deaf and dumb children in special schools, construction of a classroom in a residential school for the blind, construction of a toilet block for the use of mentally retarded children at a children's home. In the same year (1980) CMC undertook to computerise, free of cost, data for the Federation of Blood Banks in Bombay, thus facilitating the provision of speedy aid to patients especially in emergencies. The employment of physically handicapped persons in permanent positions is, of course, a continuing activity and aims at providing suitable opportunities in their career growth and development.

CMC recognises the fact that gainful work gives the handicapped a certain pride and dignity in themselves and helps them to become well-adjusted members of society. In consonance with this belief, CMC primarily offers two types of facilities for the physically handicapped namely, providing education and training at the school level and employment at later stages. At the school level, CMC assists agencies which are imparting educational and vocational skills to handicapped children and adults and is currently also exploring the possibility of introducing and imparting job oriented training to physically handicapped persons.

As this year has been declared the Year of the Disabled, the Board of Directors of CMC has decided to set aside a significant sum of money to be allocated on an all-India basis to social welfare projects, with special emphasis on the physically handicapped. CMC

believes that along with its financial contribution, there should be an active involvement of its staff members in the projects sponsored. With this in view, staff members are encouraged to put forward project proposals relating to welfare agencies in their area, so that they can maintain a liaison with the concerned institution.

Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.

THE Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence is alive to the necessity and urgency of extending employment opportunities to handicapped persons. It has reserved one per cent jobs for each category i.e. the blind, the deaf and dumb and the orthopaedically handicapped under its scheme for the employment of physically handicapped persons. It has so far provided jobs to as many as 61 persons suffering from physical disabilities.

BEML can proudly claim to have been a benevolent employer of these categories of persons because of which two of their employees were able to get National Awards. Shri C. John Britto, a Welder (Deaf and Dumb), working in BEML Factory in KGF, was the most efficient physically handicapped employee selected by the Government of India for the National Awards during 1975. Shri Britto is also an outstanding athlete and has given excellent performance in the field of sports in India and abroad. In 1973, he was deputed to participate in the XII World games of Deaf held in Malmo, Sweden. He also participated in Sports meets conducted by All India Deaf and Dumb Sports Club and won many prizes.

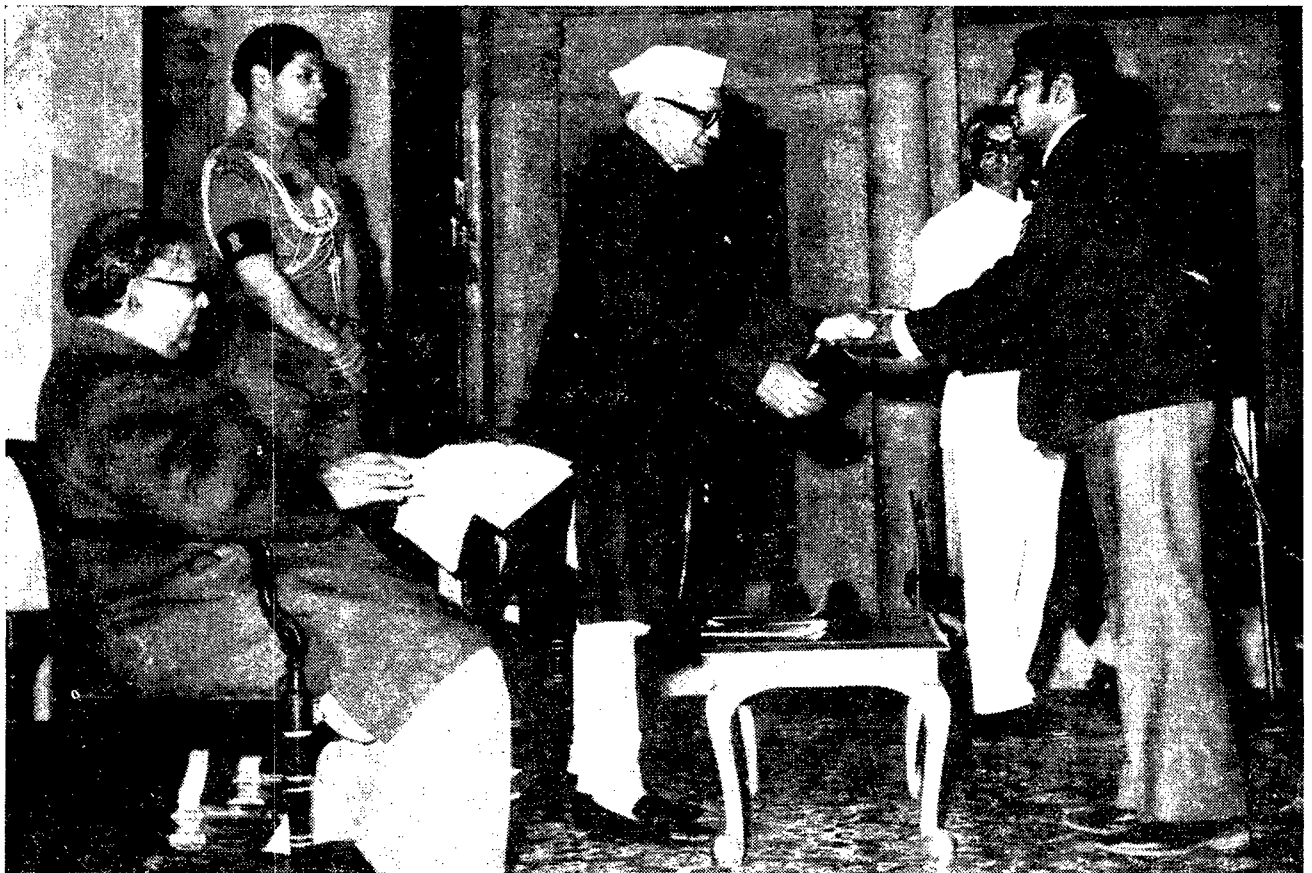
Shri R. Gopal, a blind employee of BEML, was adjudged the best handicapped employee and selected for National Award for 1976. Employed as a Fitter|Mechanic in BEML's Machine Shop at KGF Factory, he is also a keen sportsman. He participated in the sports meet conducted by the National Society for Equal Opportunities for Handicapped Karnataka Branch, at Bangalore and won a medal in 100 metre race.

BEML is giving conveyance allowance at a higher rate to physically handicapped employees than that given to other employees. By way of their employment it helps them in every way to lead a normal life in the society. Every year it collects contributions from its employees on the occasion of "All India Flag Day for the Blind" and remits the same to the Karnataka Branch of National Association for the Blind.

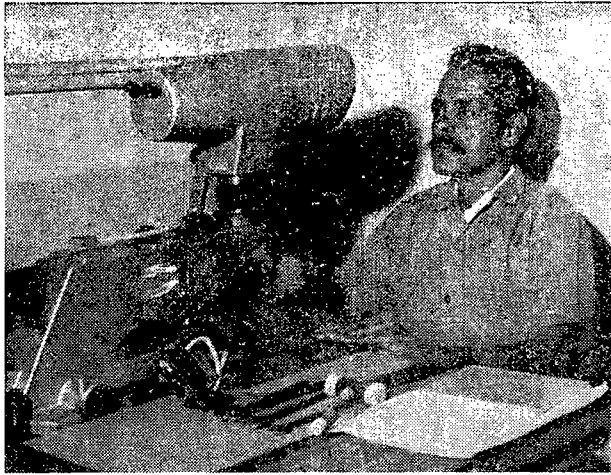
Bharat Electronics Ltd.

EVER since its inception BEL (Bharat Electronics Ltd.) has been employing the handicapped. As on March 31, 1981, BEL had on its rolls 143 disabled employees in its three units at Bangalore (110), Ghaziabad (32) and Pune (1). On requests from certain welfare organisations in Karnataka, 15 blind persons were appointed last year as a special case.

A majority of the disabled persons employed by BEL work on production jobs thus demonstrating that the complex manufacturing processes of electronics equipment are not beyond the capabilities of the disabled.



Shri C. John Britto, a handicapped employee of the BEML receiving National Award for being the most efficient worker from the President



Shri Dorai Raj, a deaf and dumb employee of BEL, and recipient of National Award for efficiency.

The scheme to train handicapped at the Technical Training Centre of BEL was taken up in 1961-62. The training helps the handicapped to become skilled workers. BEL also offers training facilities to candidates sponsored by the National Society for Equal Opportunities to the handicapped.

The BEL Labour Welfare Fund too is helping to rehabilitate the disabled dependants of its members. In 1979, the International Year for the Child, the LWF started a special school for Mentally Retarded in the BEL School. The same year free speech therapy classes were started for deaf and dumb children. Some of them have been provided with hearing aids. Artificial limbs have been provided for the orthopaedically handicapped.

In all cases of handicapped the LWF arranges for specialist consultations and helps its members to procure hearing aids and artificial limbs.

In 1975 BEL won the national award for the best employer of physically handicapped. In 1976 and 1980 two of BEL's blind employees bagged the national award for the most efficient physically handicapped employee. The same award was bagged this year by a deaf and dumb employee.

Rashtriya Chemicals And Fertilizers Ltd.

DURING the International Year for Physically Handicapped, the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd., Bombay is adopting 50 disabled and handicapped children from the weaker sections of the society from Chembur (Bombay) and Thal (Dist. Raigad) areas and will be spending Rs. 30,000 annually to meet their education and health needs, through the "Community Aid and Sponsorship Programme", a nationally recognised society serving the destitutes.

Besides, RCF has already assisted financially and employmentwise, fifteen handicapped persons ranging from mazdoors to skilled technicians and officers in their proper rehabilitation.

UCO Bank

UNITED Commercial Bank's assistance programme for the disabled has been an on-going one, given special stress in 1981, and will be continued to be stressed in future. The assistance being given now is of two categories : institutional and individual. Three instances :

Gayatri Women Welfare Association, in Bangalore, sought the Bank's assistance in 1975. It was running a project of ancillary industry to the HMT watch factory, being operated by physically handicapped and destitute women. A term loan of Rs. 1.5 lakhs and working capital of Rs. 30,000 were granted. The assistance in 1981 has been increased to about Rs. 12 lakhs.

Shrimati Jarnail Kaur, a 33-year old woman, is a resident of Sayan—Kalyan, a small Punjabi village. She has spinal disability. Along with her husband, Gurdalay Singh, she works on two looms with the assistance of the Bank. The couple buy wool from Ludhiana and weave 15 small shawls per day and get Rs. 3 for weaving each shawl. They weave for 20 days a month and put thread on the rolls during the rest of the month. Jarnail Kaur has been suffering for the past seven years, has no education but inherited the weaving craft from her forbears. Kalyan is a village of weavers. Jarnail, as also 8 other persons, some amputees, some paralytic, some with weak elbows, were recommended to the Bank by the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped, Ludhiana.

Kisan Sadhu Kudale, a paralytic since he was 12, was lent by the Bank 5 years ago an electrical motor-pumpset and a crop loan, for cultivating sugarcane. At 27, he is a successful cultivator, at Rahu a small village in Maharashtra.

A woman with amputated legs at HMT ancillary unit at Bangalore.



A Disabled Woman Regains her Confidence

The orthopaedically handicapped women, Angammal of Athoor Nathamedu village has become the proud owner of a tea-stall at Karur, thanks to the help given by Syndicate Bank, Karur Branch. The bank loaned her Rs. 4,000 under the Special Scheme of Self-employment for the Handicapped. New Confidence is writ large on her face as the daily turnover in her tea-stall is over Rs. 70. She has already repaid half of the loan amount i.e. Rs. 2,000. There are nine other similar beneficiaries who have received loans from Syndicate Bank, Karur, on eve of the International Year of Disabled, 1981.

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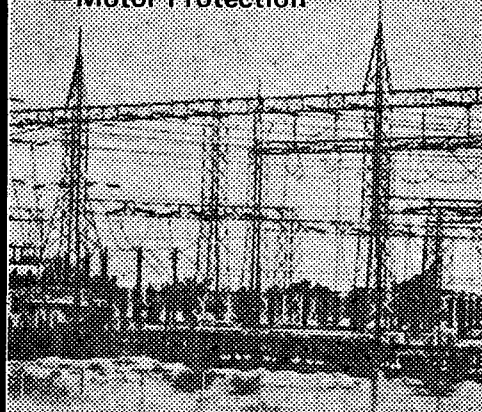
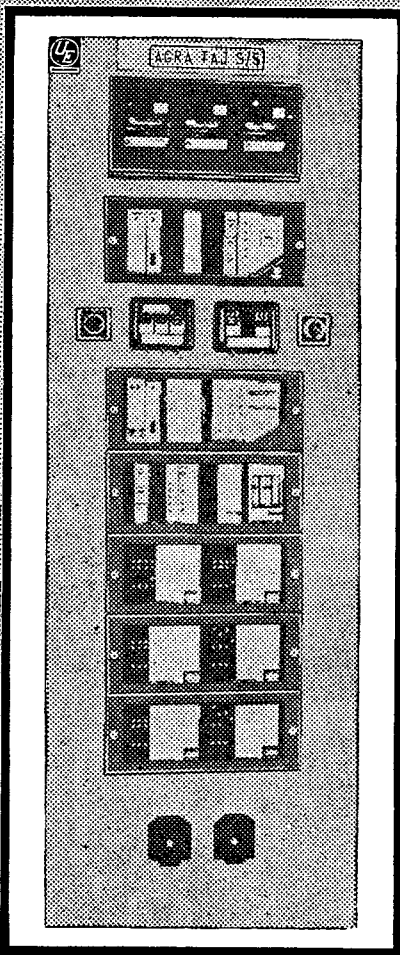
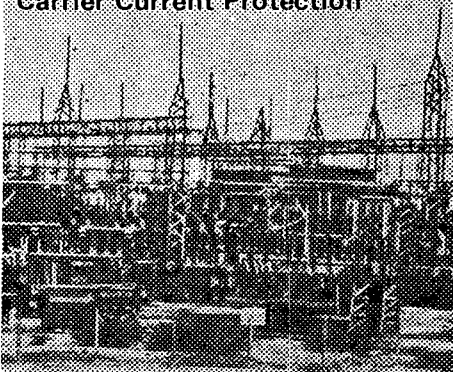
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Hindustan Aeronautics, Ltd.

The decision of the Government of India to reserve three per cent of vacancies in Group C and D posts viz. one per cent of reservation in each of the category of the blind, deaf and the orthopaedically handicapped was implemented in Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. with effect from June 1980.

The company has identified certain jobs in which these personnel could be profitably employed subject to safety of the individuals covered.

There were 220 physically handicapped employees on rolls of the Company as on 31st March 1981 (comprising 25 blind, 11 deaf and 194 orthopaedically handicapped).

In the Bangalore Complex one Shri Mohan Ram was appointed in 1964 as sheet metal worker. He lost his eye sight totally in October 1978. He was given special on-the-job training and mobility training in the factory with the help of National Association for the blind, Bangalore. He is now able to carry out the job of 'deburring' sheet metal components without any risk to himself.



Shri Mohan Ram, a blind sheet metal worker in the HAL.

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Foreign and International Bodies

UN Proclamation and Indian Objectives

THE General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 1981 as International Year of Disabled Persons in their Resolution No. 31/123 dated 16-12-1976. In proclaiming this year, the United Nations General Assembly set forth the following objectives :

- (i) Helping disabled persons in their physical and psychological adjustment to society.
- (ii) Promoting all national and international efforts to provide disabled persons with proper assistance, training, care and guidance, to make available opportunities for suitable work and to ensure their full integration in society.
- (iii) Encouraging study and research projects designed to facilitate the practical participation of disabled persons in daily life, for example, by improving their access to public buildings and transportation systems.
- (iv) Educating and informing the public of the rights of disabled persons to participate in and contribute to various aspects of economic, social and political life.
- (v) Promoting effective measures for prevention of disability and for rehabilitation of disabled persons.

The theme of the year is "Full Participation and Equality". In other words, integration should replace the present trends towards segregations; enrolment of handicapped children in ordinary schools should replace their relegation to special residential schools deprived of the love and affection of parents, and while the development of sheltered employment will remain a desirable programme, greater efforts will be made towards securing open employment for the handicapped.

The Government of India has endorsed the objectives set forth in the resolution of the General Assembly.

Within the framework of the general objectives declared by the United Nations, specific objectives to be achieved by India in the light of its present resources may be the following :

- (i) To evolve a National Policy on the disabled to include educational training, employment, measures to achieve full social integration and protections and guarantees under the Law.
- (ii) On the basis of this, to lay the foundation of a network of services for the handicapped that reaches the grassroot level so that a

comprehensive rehabilitation service is eventually provided, by preparing a perspective development plan for rehabilitation.

- (iii) To initiate in this chain a few practical programmes that would carry immediate and significant benefits to handicapped people themselves.
- (iv) To initiate concrete programmes aimed to bring about the utilisation in every way possible, the integration of handicapped people into the community. Currently, there is a strong tendency to institutionalise handicapped people. This tends to inculcate among the handicapped a sense of dependence which prevents them from fully participating in community life even after they leave the protective walls of institutions. It also tends to create a certain amount of aggression leading to maladjustment at work and in other social settings.
- (v) To give a positive rural bias to services for the handicapped since in India a great majority of handicapped persons live in rural communities. At present practically all institutional programmes are located in urban areas. Most handicapped people from rural areas have to migrate to cities or large urban agglomerations in order to secure the benefits of rehabilitation services. This brings in its wake serious problems that attend uprooting of any individual from his native environment.
- (vi) To develop a strong national disability prevention programme. Currently, only a National Programme for the Prevention of Blindness is in operation. What is important is to develop and put into operation a comprehensive and pragmatic programme for the prevention of disabilities, where necessary, through legislative sanction so that whatever needed, social reforms could be brought about to eliminate physical and mental disabilities.
- (vii) To prepare a base for research and development through the National Institutes of Technology and other bodies so that in the years to come programmes for rehabilitation of the handicapped should be responsive to

changes in the social or economic climate and to developments of techniques and technologies in the various disciplines bearing on this field.

- (viii) To develop and initiate a planned network of information and publicity services for dissemination of information on new techniques, equipment programmes for the handicapped and for employers, teachers and social workers. The service should not only disseminate information, but stimulate a greater awareness among opinion groups of the employment potential of the handicapped. Campaigns to eradicate social prejudice should form an integral part of the plan.
- (ix) To collect, on as wide base as possible, all relevant data on the handicapped in the country. □

WHO's New Approach

AS an organization concerned with health, the WHO has an abiding interest in the prevention of disability and the habilitation of the disabled.

Some of WHO's ongoing programmes in such fields as immunization against childhood disease, environmental sanitation, improved nutrition, accident prevention, blindness prevention, and mother and child care aim directly at the reduction of illness and disability, particularly among children.

These programmes are being delivered through the primary health care approaches that countries are currently developing as part of their strategies to achieve the goal of "Health for All by the Year 2000".

Despite these preventive programmes, however, the need for physical, mental and social rehabilitation of a large number of people will continue. WHO sees the problem to be well within the capacity of the countries, since most of the essential rehabilitation tasks in developing countries are comparatively simple and do not require highly technical professional skills.

In keeping with this view, WHO advocates a new, pragmatic approach to the problem, and demystification of the concept, based on the practice in rich industrialized countries, which equates rehabilitation with electric wheel chairs and other expensive appliances.

Rehabilitation services based on highly sophisticated services have been found, even in industrially advanced countries, to be unduly costly and capable of reaching only a small section of the population. No wonder developing countries who tried to borrow these models have been able to make little headway in their rehabilitation efforts.

In response to demands for more practical alternatives, WHO has formulated new policies in rehabilitation with main emphasis on prevention of disability and inclusion of a major part of rehabilitation services within primary health care.

The new approach places much reliance on auxiliary health workers, members of the patient's family, and

the disabled themselves, who are given guidance to provide and make use of the most essential services at the community level.

A major contribution of WHO is the development of a comprehensive training manual on rehabilitation in developing countries. Entitled 'Training of the Disabled in the Community', the manual contains training packages suitable for use by the families of the disabled and the disabled themselves, as well as guides for policy makers, planners, local supervisors and community leaders.

Developed in consultation with ILO and UNESCO, and in cooperation with Member States, the manual is already being field tested in many countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. □

ILO Support IYDP

ONE out of ten individuals among the world's population suffers from some form of physical or mental disablement. These people need training, retaining, specialised vocational guidance and opportunities to participate in useful work on an equal footing with the non-disabled.

Society cannot afford to lose or neglect these valuable human resources. Despite considerable achievement in the vocational rehabilitation of the disabled, the problem remains acute, especially in the developing world. Here, employment opportunities are either non-existent or very limited for the countless victims of poliomyelitis, leprosy, blindness, malnutrition and many other scourages.

The International Labour Organisation's special responsibility for the protection of workers includes safety and health at the workplace and its environment as well as ensuring that, whenever possible, disabled persons should be provided with full opportunities for vocational rehabilitation.

—Francis Blanchard, ILO Director-General

Unesco's Priorities For the Disabled

TO offer to the 450 million men, women and children—one tenth of humanity—who suffer from permanent physical, mental and social handicaps, the ways and means of full self-realization is not only to assure a basic right but to serve the interests of society, said the Unesco Director-General, Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, at the inauguration at Unesco's Paris headquarters last February at an exhibition of photographs on International Year of Disabled Persons.

Unesco was supporting all activities aimed at integrating the disabled into the life of the community, said Mr. M'Bow, and a priority task to achieve this aim was the adaption of the school system and professional training to the special needs of the disabled. A second priority for the organisation was to contribute to making the voice of the handicapped heard and informing the public on the aspirations and situation of handicapped.

UN Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons

THE Right to the same fundamental rights as other human beings, the right to enjoy a decent life, as normal as possible ;

The Right to respect for their human dignity ;

The Right to the same civil and political rights as their fellow citizens ;

The Right to measures enabling them to become as self-reliant as possible ;

The Right to medical, psychological and functional treatment, rehabilitation and placement services to help develop their skills, hastening their process of social integration ;

The Right to economic and social security, providing them with a decent level of living. To work according to their capabilities in a useful productive and remunerative occupation ;

The Right to their special needs in all stages of social and economic planning ;

The Right to live with their family and participate in all social, creative and recreational activities. In the case of persons requiring special establishments, their environment and living condition shall be as normal as possible ;

The Right to production against exploitation and discrimination ;

The Right to legal aid ;

The Right to enjoy these rights, regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, nation and social origin.

"UNPERSONS" AMONG US

Mental illness is increasing dramatically and threatens to become one of the world's most serious social and health problems. It affects more human lives, wastes more human resources than any other disabling condition.

On any given day, some 300,000 Americans are under psychiatric care in state, federal or private mental hospitals or clinics.

Almost 5 million people in the United Kingdom alone consult their family doctors about psychiatric problems every year. Some 600,000 are referred to psychiatric specialists. About 250,000 become in-patients.

The scourge crosses all boundaries and recognises no difference in social systems. It afflicts all countries indiscriminately and it has been estimated reliably that one person in ten of any population grouping is likely to suffer from mental illness at some time in life.

Globally, there are about 120 million people with serious mental disorders. This figure is likely to increase at the rate of 30 per every 1,000 additional people, to reach a total of about 200 million at the turn of the century.

Out of the present number of the mentally ill, some 20 million will require some form of residential care, International Labour Office specialists estimate. But a

great majority of the remaining 100 million could, with proper help, be successfully integrated into society. Their hope lies in access to special training for meaningful work, bolstered by prevocational preparation, job placement and social adjustment.

This would require a radical shift from those national mental health policies of ten promoting institutional-type facilities to those favouring small residential day centres and half-way houses for a limited number of patients aimed at their full integration into active social life.

Norman Cooper, who heads the ILO's Vocational Rehabilitation Section, says: "Our experience has shown that the mentally ill can find in work a fresh purpose in life and new confidence. Their latent work abilities are higher than is commonly believed and with patience, understanding and mature supervision these dormant skills can be brought out".

Pilot employment "enclaves" for the mentally ill have been set up in a number of countries. Thus, in Scandinavia they learn to plant seedlings in the forests. In the US and the UK the mentally disabled often work as park and garden attendants, or operate car wash plants; in Switzerland as packers; and in Poland on car component assembly. □

(ILO Features)

REHABILITATION PAYS OFF

Two countries in every three in the Third World are lacking even basic rehabilitation services, mainly because the world spends 1 cent on each disabled person annually, while it earmarks over \$ 400 billion for armaments.

Rehabilitation of the disabled does pay off in hard cash terms. For example, US Department of Labour statistics show that for every \$ 1,000 invested in the rehabilitation of a disabled person \$ 35,000 will be generated by that person's work during his lifetime, part of which goes to federal and state taxes. Even more impressive, it is estimated that the employment of 100,000 disabled persons in the US adds at least \$ 500 million to the GNP. And disabled persons who are economically independent do not burden community public assistance funds.

The majority of the world's 450 million disabled—300 million—live in developing countries which also have a backlog of over 300 million jobless or underemployed citizens.

The International Labour Organisation's main efforts have been directed towards the setting up of production workshops on small-scale industry lines, small business co-operatives and self-employment schemes for Third World disabled.

Experience has shown that protective legislation which aims at promoting employment of disabled people can help but that it is no panacea. In the United Kingdom, for example, the quota system has proved to be relatively ineffective in a depressed labour market situation.

Designated employment and reserved jobs programmes, even if implemented, provide little relief. Moreover, the jobs in question are usually menial, low-paid and of low status.

Some countries pay grants and allowances to employers who offer training to disabled persons at the workplace. This is a positive development which should be encouraged further, together with financial incentives to make ergonomic and other job adaptations that facilitate and increase the performance of disabled workers.

In Sweden, the so-called "adjustment groups," sponsored jointly by management and labour, are helping in many enterprises to secure alternative employment for disabled people. Similar programmes are underway in Poland and Norway.

A new concept of vocational training developed by the ILO, and known as "Modules of Employable Skills", holds great promise of improved employment opportunity for the disabled. The key to this system and its unique feature is creating completely self-contained training packages—or modular units—around each useful function and limited to the essential skills, knowledge and aptitudes required to perform a task. The relevance of this infinitely variable and flexible approach to training and employment of the disabled is obvious, for it allows the training and reintegration of those severely handicapped who can only undertake a limited range of activities.

(ILO Features)

Disabled Children in Developing Countries

Michael Irwin*

THE general opinion today is that at least ten per cent of all children are born with, or acquire, a physical, mental or sensory impairment which will interfere with their expected development unless special measures are taken. Although it is difficult to obtain reliable statistical information of this kind in many countries, this could mean that, today, there are 120 million disabled children in the developing world. By the year 2000, this figure could be at least 150 million or higher.

In November 1959, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The fifth of the ten principles of this Declaration states that, "The child who is physically, mentally or socially handicapped shall be given the special treatment, education and care required by his particular condition".

In both industrialized and developing countries, the problems of disabled children are aggravated by longstanding ignorance and superstition regarding the causes and treatment of many disabilities. Even in some Western societies today, the birth of a mentally re-

tarded child can be considered as punishment for past errors or wrong behaviour on the part of one or both parents. And nearly all parents of disabled children will need help in how to raise their children. Lack of information and misinformation of such matters is not limited only to poorly educated people.

For many years, the main contribution by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund to lessening the problem of childhood disabilities, both physical and mental, in the developing countries has been to focus on the preventive effects of general health and nutrition projects, and these activities continue. With the approval of governments, projects for the rehabilitation of disabled children, usually within established institutions, had a relatively low priority because they helped only very few children and were expensive on an individual basis. However, at various meetings of the annual UNICEF Executive Board, as well as in other forums such as the World Health Assembly, the view has often been expressed that more should be done for the disabled—especially to find simple and inexpensive methods for rehabilitation in the rural areas and urban slums of developing countries where the majority of them live.

Prevention Better

In 1978 and 1979, Rehabilitation International made an extensive study on the situation of disabled children, with particular attention being given to the developing world. This report submitted to the 1980 UNICEF Executive Board, highlighted three major findings.

1. Most of the impairments, occurring among children, could have been prevented. They were caused by inadequate nutrition, faulty child-bearing practices, preventable diseases and infections, and accidents. Thus it is not surprising that the proportion of disabled children in developing countries is much higher than in the industrialized countries. There is a close association between the incidence of childhood disabilities and the degree of poverty.

2. Most of these impairments did not have to develop into disabilities because, if they were detected early and the correct response had been given, it would usually have been possible to eliminate, minimize or compensate for whatever limitations might have been involved. Early detection of impairments needs early interventions—what can be called second-level prevention. For this, the improvement of public understanding and attitudes is very important. In any corrective measures, it is vital to stress the most normal development possible for the child, instead of focussing excessively on the impairment, which happens so often.

3. Most of what is needed to be done could be done by families and other people in the community— if they had the right information and motivation.

First of all, greater attention must be paid to the various preventive measures that can be taken than has been the case so far. While realizing that the biggest casual factor of childhood disabilities is poverty, the preventive actions which can be developed and expanded must be taken. Throughout the world, at least 100,000 children are going blind annually due to nutritional blindness alone. They survive in conditions of great hardship. Within the concept of primary health care, as elaborated at the Alma-Ata Conference in 1978, programmes to develop improved health service, better nutritional practices, basic education, and family planning must be strengthened and expanded.

A particular problem is created by disabling mental conditions among children in the developing countries. This is an area largely untouched by most existing services. Again, the emphasis of what should be done must be on prevention within broad primary health care programmes.

The present services in developing countries are

quite inadequate. Less than five per cent of physically handicapped children receive any kind of special assistance. The figure is even lower for those who have mental disorders. But there is growing realization that, in many situations, specialized personnel are not required in the provision of assistance to disabled children. A modest enrichment of the training programmes of community-level workers, whether in the health, social welfare or education sectors, could permit these persons to help the family with a disabled child in many ways.

Because of the existing conditions in many countries, it is the family, neighbours and community-level workers who must have the main responsibility for helping most of the disabled children. In many situations in a village community, other children may be involved in assisting a disabled child. Such a child-to-child approach can be beneficial to all concerned. All should be keen to see that a disabled child is assisted to become a productive member of his community.

(UNICEF)

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Some Facts About Disability

The extent of disability

* Best available estimates suggest that 10 per cent of the world's population is mentally or physically disabled.

* The world-wide total of the disabled therefore stands at approximately 450 million.

* Three-quarters of those people are receiving no trained help whatsoever.

* 146 million of the disabled are children under the age of 15 and of these:—

6 million are in North America
11 million are in Europe
13 million are in Latin America
18 million are in Africa
88 million are in Asia

* 80 per cent of the disabled live in the developing countries where less than one per cent receive any trained help.

* By the end of the century, there will be an estimated 600 million disabled people of whom 200 million will be children.

* The incidence of disability in the developing world is increased by malnutrition and disease in pregnancy and early childhood, but it is also decreased by a lower life expectancy and higher rates of infant mortality among disabled children.

* Modern medicine has increased the proportion of disabled persons by ensuring that more disabled children survive to adulthood and that more adults reach old-age in which disability is more prevalent.

* Taking into account the families of the disabled, and all those directly involved in seeking to support them, the U.N. has estimated that no less than 25 per cent of the world's people are affected by disability.

Causes

Malnutrition : The greatest single cause of disability in the developing world is the malnutrition which can impair the normal development of both mind and body. Most vulnerable of all are children under five. According to UNICEF estimates, the number of under-fives now in the grip of severe protein-energy malnutrition is 10 million. The world total of people disabled by malnutrition is estimated at 100 million.

Every year, 250,000 children, for example, lose their eyesight through the lack of Vitamin A.

The difference between being 'able-bodied' and 'disabled' is often a difference of degree rather than of kind. Disability is therefore difficult to define. Estimates of the numbers of blind people in the world, for example, vary from 11 million to 42 million depending on where the line of blindness is drawn on the graph of vision impairment. For practical purposes, disability is usually defined as difficulty in performing activities which, according to age, sex and social context, are generally regarded as essential to daily living including self-care, social relations and economic activity.

Disease : Communicable and non-communicable diseases disable an estimated 156 million people—approximately 3 per cent of the world's population.

Mental Retardation : Between one per cent and four per cent of the world's population is mentally retarded. The World Health Organisation conservatively estimates the total number of mentally retarded persons at 40 million.

Mental Illness : 40 million people have a 'functional psychiatric disturbance'. The mentally ill occupy one-quarter of all hospital beds. One person in ten will suffer from a serious mental illness at some time in his or her life. At any given time, at least one per cent of the population is suffering from severe mental disorder.

Congenital Disorders : Affect an estimated 100 million people.

Alcohol and Drugs : 40 million people are estimated to be disabled through chronic alcoholism and drug abuse. And this may be a conservative estimate : in 14 out of 16 countries surveyed by the World Health Organization, the number of alcoholics exceeded two per cent of the population (for example four per cent in France, five per cent in Chile).

Accidents : On the roads : The number of people killed on the world's roads each year is estimated to be 250,000—the equivalent of a city the size of Geneva or Nairobi. A further three million people a year are seriously injured in traffic accidents ; and half of them are disabled. The present world total of those disabled on the roads is estimated at 30 million.

At work : An estimated 100,000 people a year are killed in occupational accidents. A further 1.5 million are seriously injured and half of those are disabled. The world's total of those disabled at work is now estimated at 15 million.

In the home : 20 million people a year are injured in accidents at home. 100,000 of them are disabled. The world total of those disabled by accidents in the home is 30 million.

Other accidents : There are now an estimated three million who are disabled through war, natural disasters and sporting accidents.

Deafness : There are an estimated 70 million people in the world who are either deaf or have a severe hearing impairment.

Blindness : An estimated 42 million are either blind or visually disabled. Trachoma is one of the world's most widespread diseases, affecting between 400 million and 500 million people of whom two to three million are completely blind and a further eight million cannot see well enough to earn a living. Onchocerciasis (river blindness) affects a further 20 million cannot see well enough to earn a living. same number have badly impaired eyesight.

Cerebral Palsy : Claims an estimated 15 million victims world-wide.

Lennox : Affects 15 million people of whom one-quarter are seriously disabled by the disease.

Epilepsy : Also affects 15 million.

Full-Fledged Members of Society

P. Bhattacharyya*

DISABLED persons evoke sympathy and compassion everywhere. But mere sympathy or even isolated acts of charity without any concrete and comprehensive programme to make them integrated with the general life of the society may even harm the self-respect of the disabled and stamp their mind permanently with a stigma of inferiority. The Soviet State, therefore, sees the purpose and meaning of its care for the invalid persons in helping them to become full-fledged members of the society. In the Soviet Union these people fully exercise all social, economic, political and individual rights enshrined in and guaranteed by the Constitution of the USSR and Soviet laws. Already in the early years of the Soviet Government, Lenin worked out the basic principles of the policy of socialist state for the rehabilitation of the disabled so that they could all take active part in the life of their country.

The first task towards the integration of the disabled children with the normal ones is to arrange proper education and training for them. For this the State has established a country-wide network of specialised educational institutions and vocational training institutions. Disabled persons between the age of 15 and 40 receive professional training at the boarding schools. It should be noted in this connection that all the expenses for such training is met by the State, whereas the invalids continue to receive their pensions.

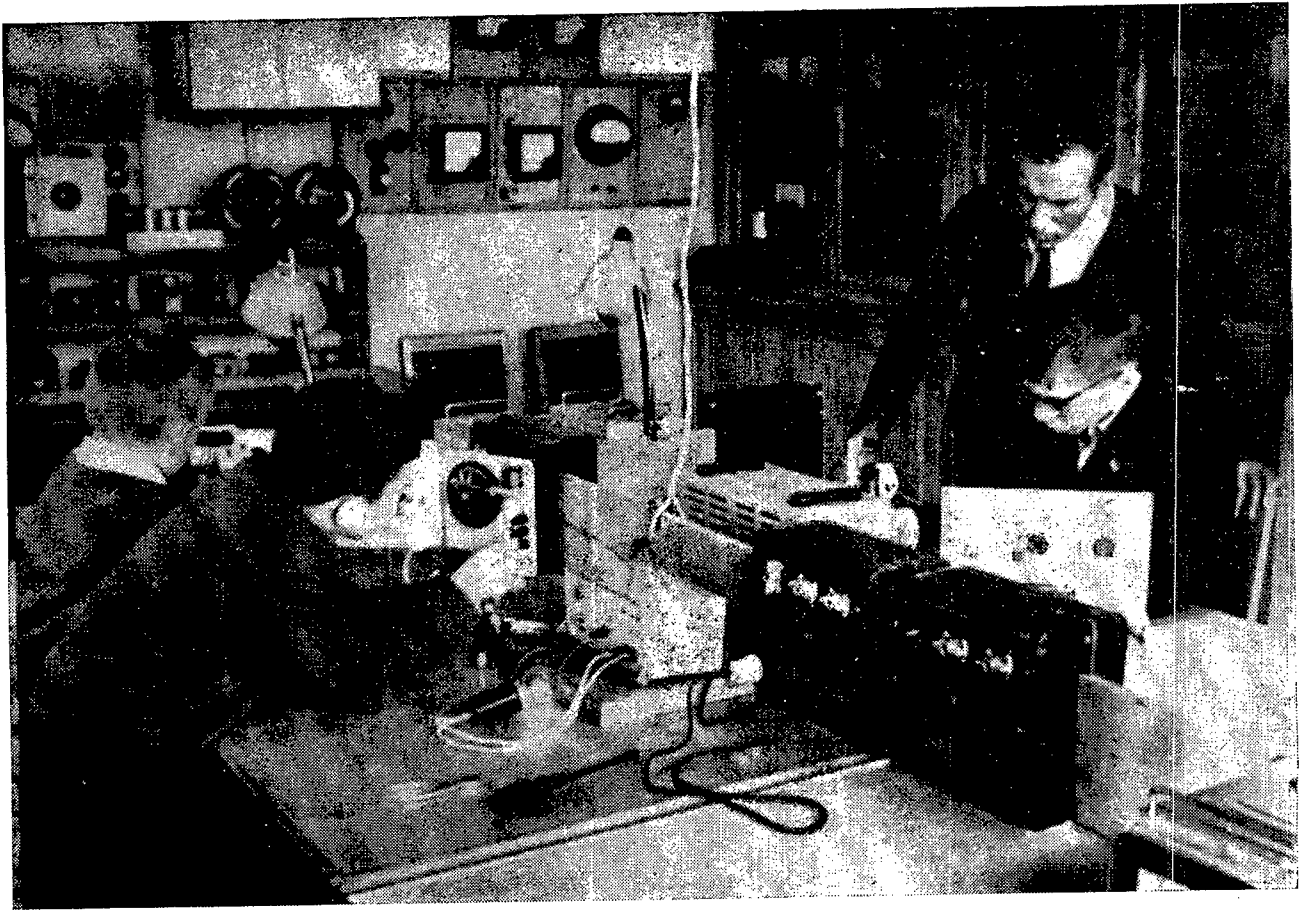
Handicapped children in the Soviet Union are divided into four categories : the deaf and dumb, blind, mentally retarded and the crippled. Soviet education system for the handicapped has two fundamental features. First, it does not have "blind alley" institutes for them from which they may not be able to proceed further to join the main stream of education. Secondly, this system is strictly specialised according to the conditions of the children. Years of theoretical studies and practical work today make the most individualised education of the handicapped children and their subsequent absorption in the society possible.

*Freelance Journalist



A blind, deaf and dumb child communicating with the nurse

The special educational institutions are varied—about 15 types exist. The four categories of deaf and dumb, blind, mentally retarded and crippled are, in turn, divided into sub-categories according to the degree of the handicap. Institute of Defectology, one of the 13 research institutes of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, has been principally concerned with the task of educating the disabled children. Re-



In the electric room at the Moscow boarding school for blind children

sults of constant and latest researches are always brought into use for making their education easier and more effective. At schools for the deaf, the children cover the eight-year curriculum of general education in 12 years. Attempts are on to reduce this period to 10 years.

The schools for the children with defective eye sight have also several types; for absolutely blind children, for children with 0.05 per cent of normal vision, schools for children with poor vision (up to 20 per cent of normal vision) and evening schools for blind children and children with poor eye sight. Equipment with the help of which a blind student can judge the correctness or incorrectness of his action by the pitch and frequency of sounds, lighted school desks, texts printed in large types, enlarged illustrations and close-circuit television are used according to the category of students. Secondary education is obligatory for the blind students as it is for the children with normal eye sight.

The teaching in the schools for mentally retarded, for children with border-line mental retardation and for children with defective locomotor system are conducted very carefully according to strict individual approach and in close co-operation with the medical specialists.

Disability Pensions

Disability pensions constitute an important aspect of the social security for the disabled in the USSR. Pensions are granted irrespective of the cause of disability and the time of its occurrence. Secondly, pensions are paid not only to the fully, but also to partially disabled people. These pensions are paid without any deduction or payment for these purposes, from their incomes.

In addition to monthly state pensions and allowances, the disabled persons in the Soviet Union enjoy a number of other benefits also. The State provides them with all medical facilities (treatment in the Soviet Union is free for everyone) and effective prosthetic and orthopaedic aid and also appliances that make their work and self service easier. The country has a broad network of prosthetic-orthopaedic enterprises which fully meet the demand. Overwhelming majority of the disabled persons get prosthetic and orthopaedic devices free.

Means of personal transport—bicycled chairs, wheelchairs, motorised wheel chairs and manually controlled cars—are given free of charge or at heavy discount to the disabled. They also get state subsidies for buying petrol and maintenance of their



Deaf and dumb children receiving lessons

transport. Some categories of invalid persons travel free on city transport and all categories enjoy a 50 per cent discount on trains, ships and planes.

For invalids, old people and also single persons who cannot stay in their families because of certain reasons, there are about 1,500 boarding homes. All expenses (food, medical care and everyday services) for such homes are borne by the State.

Employment

Soviet legislation guarantees employment of the disabled persons. Article 157 of the Labour Code of the Russian Federation and similar articles of the Labour Codes of other Union Republics make it mandatory for the management to employ disabled persons.

According to the Soviet Law enterprises have to reserve up to two per cent of their jobs for the disabled persons. However, in many cases the employment ratio of the handicapped surpasses this as they are employed along with the normal persons on the basis of same work efficiency and specialisation. Each year, there is further rise in the number of enterprises and shops specially designed for the employment of the disabled persons who are unable to work in ordinary production conditions. They may also work part time or at home if necessary.

The system of professional training for the invalids will be further intensified in the coming years. It al-

ready helps them get employment in 40 lines, including radio-communication, broadcasting, agronomy, zootechniques, book-keeping and medical laboratory work.

In addition to their salary, the disabled persons also get their pensions. They also enjoy longer period of annual leave, have less work load and work for lesser period, enjoying, at the same time, full salary and other usual facilities.

Besides these benefits the disabled persons in the Soviet Union have wide scope of recreational and cultural facilities. There are hundreds of well-equipped recreation centres for them throughout the country. The libraries for the blind in the Russian Federation alone have a total of 1.2 million books in Braille Editions. A great number of books are recorded in tapes also and the blind people receive tape recorders free to 'read' these.

The disabled persons in the Soviet Union are full members of the society in concrete facts. There are many handicapped persons among the elected members to the local Soviets as well as the Supreme Soviets, in trade unions and other public organisations. There are about 5,000 blind lawyers, teachers, economists and administrators. This could not have been possible unless the disabled persons in the Soviet lived a life integrated with the society in labour, aspiration and creative joy. □

The Handicapped in U.S.

THE handicapped—the blind, crippled, deaf, mentally retarded—mobilized into a civil rights movement in the United States. They have organized and lobbied for what most Americans take for granted: a drink of water at a public fountain, access to buses or subways, a way in and out of buildings, the right to attend the schools of their choice, and the freedom to live independent lives with dignity.

The disabled constitute a unique minority, embracing every race and religion, both sexes and all ages. And, as handicapped groups like to point out, membership can be conferred on anyone at any time—by disease, by accident, by heart attack or stroke.

No one knows for certain just how many Americans are disabled, but estimates range up to 70 million. The 1970 U.S. Census, the first to ask about disabilities, came up with a figure of 40 million, not including handicapped in institutions or those thought to have omitted mention of their disabilities.

For most of America's history, its disabled have been locked in institution, hidden in attics, shoved into basements. They become the invisible minority. Since able bodied people did not expect or require the physically and mentally limited to work, architecture and attitudes developed with the sound in mind. Then World War II siphoned off much of the American work force, and the disabled were among those hired as replacements. To many people's surprise, industries reported smaller labour turnover, lower absenteeism, fewer accidents and equal or superior production rates. But once the war was over, veterans began squeezing the handicapped out of the job market.

By the end of the 1960s, the already huge number of handicapped people had increased still further, owing to progress in medical science. People were surviving accidents and diseases they never used to survive. As an example, the annual U.S. mortality rate for spinal-cord injury cases tumbled from 90 per cent at the close of the World War I to below 15 per cent since World War II. In the 1920s, severe mongoloid retardates were lucky to live beyond their teens; now they often live into their 40s. Moreover, some 490,000 disabled Vietnam veterans came home from the war. In the face of widespread unemployment, they voiced their indignation.

No U.S. Federal legislation specifically barred discrimination against the handicapped, and since state laws were weak and appropriations for enforcement scant, several hundred groups, representing a medley of disabilities, began to exert pressure on legislators for laws that would guard their rights. Men like paraplegic Ron Kovic, author of *Born on the Fourth of July*, became strident and eloquent spokesmen for the movement. In May 1970, a group of handicapped New Yorkers led by an angry young woman rejected for a teaching job, formed Disabled in Action, probably the movement's first truly militant organization.

New Act

Waving placards and chanting rallying cries ("You gave us your dimes, Now allow us our dignity"), the handicapped became a force to be reckoned with. Individual American States began to yield to the handicapped ground swell, pushing through laws that forbade discrimination. In 1973, after a widely publicized sit-in by people in wheel-chairs at the Lincoln Memorial, the U. S. Congress passed a Rehabilitation Act for the physically and mentally disabled, a mighty ziggurat of legislation comparable in its implications to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. "No handicapped individual," it proclaimed, "shall be excluded from any programme or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." It also established a board to govern the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, which stipulates that public facilities built after 1968 with Federal money must be accessible to the disabled.

But months of inaction followed, as bureaucrats struggled to make clear the complex rules of compliance. In 1975, the Education of All Handicapped Children Act was passed, granting all disabled children the right to a free public education. In April 1976, the U. S. Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Joseph Califano signed regulations making the Rehabilitation Act effective. The Act, Califano said, "opens up a new era of civil rights in America," and will "work fundamental changes in many facets of American life.

In broad outline, the regulations say that employers doing work with the government may not refuse to hire the handicapped—including cancer and heart disease sufferers—if their handicaps don't impede their ability to do the job. Employers must make "reasonable accommodation" to their handicapped workers, and they must launch aggressive affirmative action plans so that handicapped people are sought out, hired, and promoted. The rules mandate that all new buildings be made accessible to the disabled through ramps, elevators, and other appurtenances; many existing buildings must also be modified. They instruct universities to make all their programmes available to the handicapped. Hospitals must establish special techniques for treating the disabled (such as means to communicate with the deaf in emergency rooms). And all public schools must open their doors to handicapped children. All in all, HEW officials calculate, implementing the legislation will require more than \$2.4 billion a year, though they expect the cost to balance out with the productivity of the newly employed handicapped.

Implementation requires a major shift in public attitudes towards the disabled. Most drastically affected will be elementary and secondary schools. Roughly eight million children—around 12 per cent of the school-age population—are handicapped and only 40 per cent of those now receive sufficient special education. A million disabled children have been denied access to school altogether.

Clearly, a brand new classroom experience lies ahead for American School children. Like many others, I moved through middle-class public schools without once encountering a child burdened with a handicap greater than the disinclination to study. Mainstreaming promises to produce a different student mix. Healthy children will still be in the majority, but classes will also include children who can't walk. Or see, Or speak. Children who pant with the effort of getting out a word, who have to be carried from room to room, or who have stuck in respirators. Films and printed materials have been developed for use in classrooms to acquaint children with their handicapped peers. Parents are urged to share the burden of re-orientation by telling their children about disabilities.

Inevitably, support services will have to be developed to deal with many of the handicapped students placed in regular classrooms. This will take time.

The legislation also has a marked impact on higher education, which relies heavily on Federal money in one form or another. The American Council on Education has noted that if all institutions make themselves totally accessible to handicapped students, the cost to higher education could reach \$ 4.5 billion.

Employment

One of the crucial problems confronting the handicapped is that of finding work. The disabled suffer from the highest unemployment rate of any group. Some estimates place it at 40 per cent of those considered employable. Many handicapped people spend most of their lives at poverty level. According to the 1970 U. S. Census, the proportion of the disabled living in poverty is almost twice as high as that for general population. Often disabled individuals who do work are stuck in sheltered workshops where they labour at menial tasks for scant wages.

Many companies have begun to review their hiring practices. GTE Sylvania used to refuse to hire cancer patients because it thought them poor insurance risks. Now it hires them. International Telephone & Telephone (ITT) has scrapped rules that forbid hiring applicants with epilepsy, cancer and certain other health problems. ITT employs in a printed circuit shop several plate makers who can't hear or speak. Sears Roebuck has in one of its stores a successful assistant customer service manager who is blind. Marriott employs a number of retarded workers in its hotels as cleaner, maids and cafeteria workers; dupont has taken on a double-amputee engineer.

Berkelay, California, a mecca for liberal causes, is the home of one of the most extraordinary organizations to spring up in support of the disabled the Center for Independent Living. The center is conscious of itself as a model facility for the handicapped and has encouraged an atmosphere that makes acceptable the presence of wheel-chairs and disfigurement. "Most other organizations are concerned with research and physical therapy", a centre spokesman says. "The center has focussed on people beyond therapy who can live independent lives. We want people out of those back bedrooms."

Created by a group of severely disabled individuals who were already leading independent lives, the center employs 120 staff members, most of them handicapped. It offers practically every service a handi-

capped person might be required to strike out on his own; peer counseling, housing referral, a car and van modification shop, an office that screens attendants for immobile people, a computer programming course, a paraplegic service to tackle discrimination cases, financial counselling, job placement, and a 24-hour wheelchair repair centre complete with emergency road service. More than 5000 clients of every imaginable disability use its facilities each year. Its example has led to the development of at least 20 centers in several other American states, and it hopes one day to see replicas in all the 50 states.

More and more handicapped people are being given the opportunity to lead independent lives as a result of technology. A battery of tools now available help even the most severely handicapped person get through the day without great difficulty. Technology is replacing muscles with motors. The Veterans Administration's Research Center for Prosthetics, in New York City, is a key designer of aids for the handicapped. Anthony Staros, a florid, snowy-haired man who is the center's director, told me, "With developments in electronics and microprocessors, and progress in reducing motor sizes, and breakthroughs in portable energy storage systems, we see no limit to what can be done to improve the quality of life for the handicapped. We're getting them out of bed, out of the house and into office. We're in effect rescuing them from the living death of uselessness."

(Courtesy : *The Span*)

Emancipation of the Disabled in West Germany

IN the Federal Republic of Germany there are about 6,000,000 disabled individuals. In 1979 already a "National Commission for the International Year of Disabled Persons" was created and was chaired by the German Federal Minister for Labour and Social Order, Herbert Ehrenberg. The Commission includes representatives from the Federal Government and all the States, as well as associations working groups and organizations involved in providing assistance and rehabilitation for the disabled. Some thirteen working groups and a total of 700 experts work actively in this Commission. Their recommendations were collected in a report published in 1980.

For years Ernst Klee, the Frankfurt social education specialist, has been involved in a concrete effort to emancipate the disabled. Towards the end of 1973 Ernst Klee initiated a course for the disabled and non-disabled at the Frankfurt Institute of Adult Education.

The National Commission advocates the expansion of preventive measures. This would include, in particular, providing more opportunities for counselling on human genetics and more courses for pregnant mothers. Vaccination against the German measles, mandatory for adolescent girls in all States, is also important. Having the measles during pregnancy almost always results in a birth of a disabled child (usually blind or deaf). In general, more must be done to inform women. They must be made to

realize how necessary preventive examinations are during pregnancy. The obligatory health insurance schemes have paid for these examinations since 1968. In this way it is possible to determine ahead of time whether or not any risk will be involved in a pregnancy.

Prevention is important, but early recognition of handicaps is no less important. Early recognition makes it possible to begin early with treatment and special training. The National Commission recommended more specifically directed training for doctors. The wish is that important areas in which handicaps occur be given special attention in diagnostics. The Commission experts even went as far as demanding that special advanced training programmes be made obligatory for non-medical professions.

Some ten years ago a Munich professor of medicine by the name of Hellbruegge created the first integrative kindergarten attended by both disabled and non-disabled children. Since then similar institutions have been created in other parts of the Federal

Republic with a great deal of success. It has been shown that both groups profit from each other.

In the Federal Republic of Germany there are more than 180,000 private and public employers, each of whom provide work for more than 15 individuals. They are all legally required to employ seriously disabled individuals in at least 6 per cent of the jobs available. If this is not the case, employers are required to pay a monthly compensation of about Rs. 400 for every position not filled by a disabled person.

Before the Rehabilitation Act was passed in 1974 only 430,000 seriously disabled individuals had work. In 1980, however, of the some 3,000,000 persons in the Federal Republic of Germany with officially recognized disabilities around 1,000,000 had found jobs. At present more than 53,000 seriously disabled individuals (especially the mentally and multiply handicapped) are employed in workshops.

(German News)

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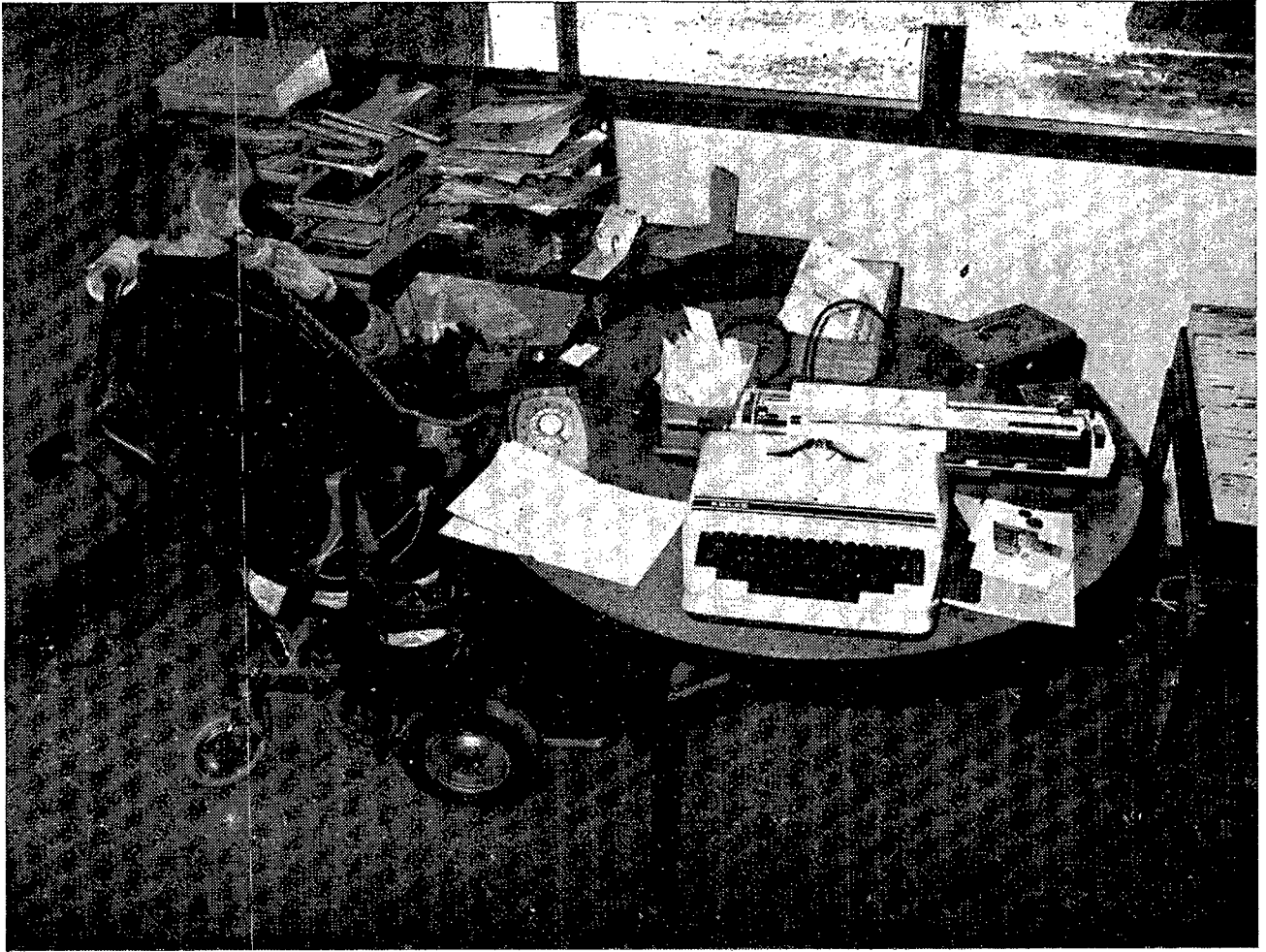
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A lady typist with two fingers on one hand at her desk

Facilities for the Disabled in Australia

TO enable the disabled to reduce their dependence on other people to a minimum and live a fuller and more meaningful life. Australia has chalked out a special programme under which aids to daily living are made available to the disabled. A sum of \$7,00,000 has been allocated for the programme in 1980-81. In the homes of disabled people the doorways will be widened and access ramps for wheelchairs, provided. People would also be provided with wheelchairs on loan, with orthopaedic devices such as surgical footwear and braces, and with walking aids.

Some 600 children are born in Australia each year with cleft lip and cleft palate which require multidisciplinary treatment. As the treatment is expensive the Government has extended the Medical Benefits Schedule so that children with cleft lip and cleft palate can receive financial help for orthodontic and associated treatment. A total of \$1 million has been provided for the programme in 1980-81.

To ameliorate accommodation problem for the mentally handicapped people twenty beds for profoundly intellectually handicapped people are provided in existing health care facilities. The Government has allocated \$20,000 for capital costs and \$2,74,000 for operating costs of the project in the year.

Devices to help the handicapped

The Yooralla Society, an Australian organisation has introduced many devices to enable those with serious physical handicaps to work efficiently. Miss Noreen Eaton, who suffered a severe arthritis attack when aged 16, lost control of her legs, has limited control of her hands, and some use of fingers, but cannot move her arm, vertically. The Society designed a tabletop switchboard for her. Miss Eaton, who is confined to a wheelchair, presses a button which swings upwards the top of the desk. With a stick or a pencil she operates the switch board efficiently.

Then she pushes another button to lower the switchboard.

Miss Eaton is a telephonist at Ability House, a Yooralla workshop and administrative centre in South Melbourne, where several such adaptations to standard equipment enable it to be operated by handicapped people.

One simple addition of a tripod enables a handicapped person operate a nipping press in the book-binding section.

Miss Betty Bone spent 22 years in hospital with poliomyelitis, and has the use of only two fingers on one hand. Miss Bone passed her Higher School Certificate, the Victorian State university entrance examination, by correspondence school and writes with a pencil between her teeth. A revolving table provided to her by the Society, has enabled Miss Bone to work as a full time typist-clerk. The device helps her have her typewriter and other equipment always within reach by revolving the top.

A Sydney company has developed a machine to help partially sighted people read, type and perform assembly work. The device uses a television screen linked with two normal surveillance cameras requiring no special light. One camera, set at the bottom of the screen, can be trained on a typewriter, book or on production work and the magnified image is projected. The other camera, set on top of the screen, can be focused on a blackboard to magnify the image in the same way. The device is ideally suited to the educational needs of partially sighted children.

A new visual aid for the physically handicapped has been developed by scientists from the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). The aid, an automated microfiche reader worked by the touch of a button, was designed mainly for handicapped children, but has since been modified for use by people with spinal



A TV machine which helps partially sighted to read, type and perform assembly work.

injuries or who are partially blind. The heart of the unit is a micro-processor that responds to a push on any of eight buttons, allowing the reader not only to turn the page but to move it to right or left, up or down, return to the index page, to scan the following pages, to reverse the scan or open the fiche carrier. □

Present Disability

EVERY year an estimated 50 million accidents occur in industry alone throughout the world—about 160,000 each day. Some of these mishaps are fatal and many leave their victims disabled for life. Millions of other people are incapacitated by crippling diseases contracted at the work-place. Society—and workers in particular—is thus paying a heavy price for industrialisation in physical suffering and economic loss.

Persons who are handicapped through an occupational accident or disease are distressing proof of insufficient safety and health measures at work. A comprehensive effort to prevent job-related disabilities is the obligation of modern industrial society and calls for greater emphasis on occupational safety and health.

The International Labour Organisation, since it was established, has worked for on-the-job protection of health and life. Some 50 international instruments (conventions and recommendations) have been adopted to this effect by the Organisation which has also convened technical meetings, bringing together 20,000 specialists during the past 15 years.

More than 100 publications containing technical advice have been published by the ILO. These include some 10 codes of occupational safety and health which provide health—and life-saving guidelines in areas ranging from accident prevention on board ship and in underground coal mines to the safe operation of chain saws and tractors. □

(ILO Features)

Care of the Disabled in Britain

IN Britain a number of social services have been designed to reduce the incidence and severity of disability and to help disabled persons and their families, whatever be the nature and cause of their handicap.

Since the passing of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act in 1970, greater attention has been focused on the needs of disabled people by central and local governments and by a variety of independent voluntary organisations. Since March 1974 there has been a Government minister with special responsibility for disabled people.

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 obliges local authorities to discover the number of disabled people living in their areas and to provide them with social services. The Act is also concerned with the admission of disabled people to buildings open to the public; anyone providing such premises including educational buildings must make provision for disabled people to have access to them. A symbol representing a person in a wheelchair is fixed to those public buildings making provision for disabled people.

For disabled people over school-leaving age there are services which provide free medical and dental treatment for all, including medical rehabilitation under the National Health Service; a disablement resettlement service to place employable disabled people in suitable work; social work services for severely disabled people; and financial assistance.

Jennifer, 22, broke her back in a car-crash. She is now at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylebury, learning how to get into and out of wheel-chair



Terry Clark (left), paraplegic since the age of three, is active despite his handicap, enjoying the facilities at the Stoke Mandeville Sport Stadium

Appliance Service

The Artificial Limb Service, established during the first world war primarily for war pensioners, was the first Government-sponsored rehabilitation scheme in Britain. The service, together with the arrangements for the supply of wheel chairs and road vehicles for disabled people, is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Security and the Welsh Office.

Powered motor or electric three-wheelers are provided for those people who are virtually unable to walk, or to those rather less seriously disabled who need a motor vehicle to get to work.

The National Health Service makes special provision for the hard of hearing. Patients are referred to diagnostic clinics in hospitals and hearing aid distribution centres, staffed by specially trained technicians, where they may be supplied with hearing aids specially designed and maintained without charge. In November 1974 the National Health Service began a five-year programme of issuing a new behind-the-ear-aid which is designed to supplement the present range of body-worn aids, the latter remaining available for those who need them. The new aid is suitable for most moderately deaf people and is much lighter than the standard body-worn aid. The aid and the batteries are being issued free and the servicing, carried out by the manufacturer, is also free.



Health Service

In addition to the provision of wheel-chairs and other aids, the National Health Service provides, electrical apparatus known as POSSUM which gives the severely handicapped some independence in the home and control over their immediate environment. One POSSUM, for instance, enables the disabled person to operate up to 11 electrical devices such as alarm bells, radio and television, a telephone, heating and an intercom. There are also POSSUM typewriter control system; these can be obtained free under the health service by completely disabled persons unable to communicate.

Employment Rehabilitation

Employment and training services for the disabled are based on the Disabled Persons (Employment) Acts 1944 and 1958. The 1944 Act :

Requires the Secretary of State to maintain a Disabled Persons Register.

Requires every employer who has a substantial number of employees to include among them a quota or proportion of registered disabled people.

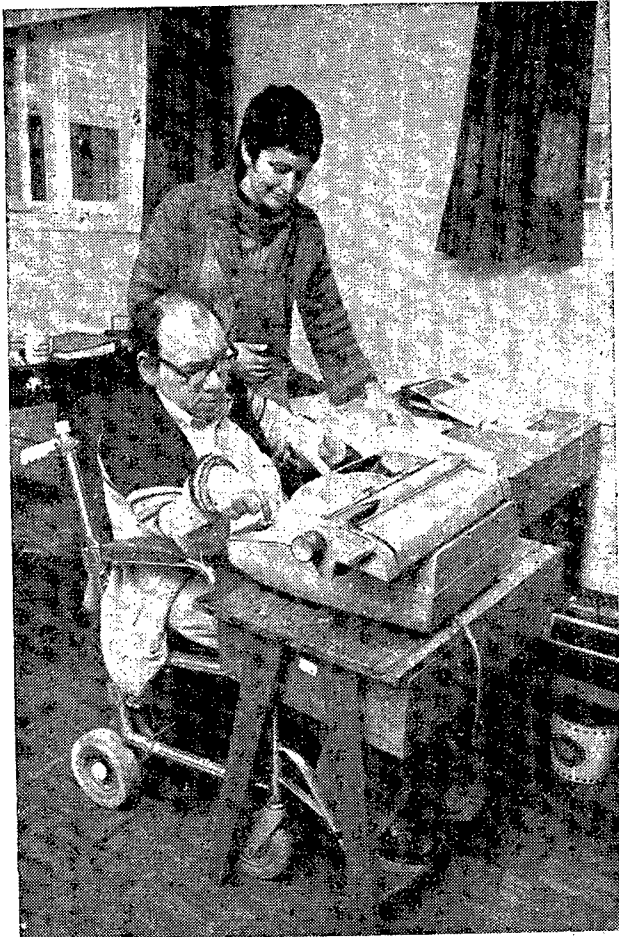
Empowers the Secretary of State for Employment to reserve certain kinds of work for disabled people.

Authorises the provision of sheltered employment for severely disabled people.

Glynn Vernon, a handicapped person undergoing training at computer programme centre



John Jones (right), helping to care for this cerebral palsy child at a Cardiff Mental Hospital



Provides for courses of employment rehabilitation and vocational training to be given where needed.

Under the Act the Secretary of State for Employment has authority to make arrangements for the provision of sheltered employment for severely disabled people, either by making grants to voluntary undertakings or local authorities or by setting up non-profit-making public companies for this purpose. Such a company was formed in 1945 as the Disabled Persons Employment Corporation Ltd. (now Remploy Ltd.).

Remploy Ltd.

Remploy Ltd. aims to provide sheltered employment for registered disabled people who are so severely disabled that they are unlikely to be able to obtain and keep work under normal industrial conditions.

Some 87 factories employ about 8,200 severely disabled people. The company is planning an investment programme involving the opening of new replacement factories and extensive alterations to existing ones. A few factories organise work at home for home-bound disabled people. Employment is provided for 21 different categories of disabled person. Products manufactured range from knitwear, furniture, cardboard boxes and cartons to a variety of engineering and electrical goods, leather and textile products and surgical footwear and appliances. Services to industry include packaging and assembly work, printing and book binding. Many of the company's products are exported.

Training

Government sponsored training for workers is provided in skill centres under the Training Opportunities Scheme organised by the Manpower Services Commission through its Training Services Agency. This encompasses over 500 different courses and is open to disabled people on the same basis as other workers. One of the benefits for some disabled people is that more courses are available in their home areas.

The Social Security Scheme, administered in Great Britain by the Department of Health and Social Security, includes provision for disabled people and their dependants.

Local authorities provide a variety of service for physically and mentally handicapped people living in their areas, including social work and education.

Care and treatment for the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped, whether in hospital or in the community, are provided by the National Health Service and local authority social services departments. Hospital care is the responsibility of the National Health Services while the local authority social service departments are responsible for the provision of community care services. Hospital care, and most of the community care services, are provided free of charge. In Scotland, particularly, boarding out has always been much used in the mental health services; this provides the advan-

tages of family care and useful occupation both for the mentally ill and for the mentally handicapped.

An important contribution towards the care of the disabled is made by voluntary organisations working closely with local authorities. There are several central organisations assisting people suffering from different kinds of handicap, while others concentrate on the needs of specific groups such as blind and deaf people.

The Central Council for the Disabled, to which many voluntary organisations are affiliated, co-ordinates their work with the aim of improving the living conditions and environment of disabled people. Among its concerns are accessibility of public buildings, holiday opportunities, protection of the disabled in legal and parliamentary matters and improvement in housing provision. The council assists in the production of guide-books for different parts of Britain giving information about access to local shops, cinemas, hotels and public buildings. It also publishes a guide to holiday homes, hotels and guesthouses catering for disabled people and a guide to the major stations of British Rail.

Another central body is the British Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled which arranges conferences on disablement and rehabilitation. A training bureau provides education and training for disabled people so that they can be re-employed. □

Support for the Disabled in Sweden

Sweden is a small, highly industrialized country, which has not been at war during almost 170 years, and which particularly during the period after the Second World War and up to the 1970's has experienced exceptionally good economic growth. This has provided scope for a number of radical social reforms, which have directly or indirectly affected the handicapped.

A strong central government administration combined with extensive local government is also characteristic. Traditionally public bodies at these three levels—central government, county council, local authority—are responsible for almost all public services within important sectors such as the employment service, education, medical care and social welfare. Charitable organisations with a social objective, which often work for the handicapped, have less scope in Sweden than in many other countries.

Further there is a strong handicap movement. In the municipalities and counties there are at present just over 1,200 handicap associations with 300,000 members. At the national level there are about 25 associations representing different handicaps. The majority of these co-operate within the Central Committee of National Associations of the Handicapped, which has county committees in all the counties and local committees in many municipalities. Among the major organizations for the handicapped, which do not belong to the Central Committee, is the National Association of the Handicapped which

is an organization primarily for the motor-handicapped and has 40,000 members.

The Swedish handicap movement differs from handicap organizations in many other countries in that it consists to a high degree of organizations of and not for the handicapped. They are dominated to a large extent by the handicapped themselves and in the last few years have come to function as social policy pressure groups in relation to society.

Society supports the activities of organizations for the handicapped, both financially and in other ways. The government's expenditure along on more direct measures for the handicapped via the national budget and national insurance has been estimated at Skr 13,100 million for the financial year 1979/80. The county councils and the local authorities' total expenditure on measures for the handicapped was estimated at Skr 10,000 million for 1978/79. (1 Skr—Rupe 1.76 approx).

The handicap movement has to a large degree been accepted by society's bodies as a consultative partner with regard to the design of measures in the handicap sphere.

In principle the handicap movement is working for its own abolition. But no organization for the handicapped discontinues its activities despite the fact that there are cases where the original aim of the organization's activities has been achieved. Cases in point are: tuberculosis is almost entirely eradicated as an endemic disease, polio epidemics no longer occur, the thalidomide children have had

their demands for compensation etc. met. But the Association for Lung Patients has changed its name to the National Association for Heart and Lung Patients and the National Association against Polio has incorporated road accident victims in its group.

The political goal for Swedish measures for the handicapped is that the handicapped should be part of the community and live like others. They should have the same opportunities to earn a living, have a good home, move about, and have meaningful jobs and leisure activities.

This approach makes it impossible naturally enough to give statistical data on the number of persons in different handicap groups. Various estimates indicate, however, that in Sweden about 800,000 persons between the ages of 15 and 75 have more or less pronounced motor handicaps or limited mobility due to the reduced functioning of motory or internal organs. The number of persons with more pronounced motor handicaps is estimated at 100,000 and the number of those confined to a wheelchair at 25,000.

It is estimated that 200,000 persons have such severe visual impairments that they cannot read ordinary writing even with the help of glasses. Nearly 10,000 persons are probably completely blind or lack locomotor vision.

The number of persons with defective hearing has been estimated at just over 600,000. 150,000 of these are reckoned to be dependent on hearing aids. The number of deaf persons is estimated to be about 10,000.

About 80,000 persons are mentally retarded. 35,000 of these are cared for by the county councils' social welfare programme for the mentally retarded.

It is the ambition of Swedish handicap policy to avoid special solutions for the handicapped as far as possible and instead make society as a whole accessible to all. Handicap issues thus become the responsibility of the whole society.

Care and Rehabilitation

In contrast to many other countries Sweden has no general law with the aim of securing the rights of handicapped persons. In accordance with efforts to integrate the various handicap issues in the areas where they belong, special paragraphs concerning the handicapped have instead been inserted in certain laws (e.g. the Building Act, the Child Care Act). In other laws (the Education Act, the Work Environment Act) it is considered to be self-evident or it is stated in the legislative history that handicapped persons are also covered by the law.

There is one exception to this rule. This is the Act on Provisions for Mentally Retarded Persons of 1968, which gives the county councils full responsibility for the mentally retarded.

The ordinary medical service (responsibility of the county councils) is obliged to meet the care requirements of the handicapped as well. The county councils are also responsible for medical rehabilitation. They have therefore built up an organization consisting of vision and hearing centres, and employed hearing and vision consultants, physiotherapists, bandage experts, etc. for the treatment of the handicapped.

Technical aids for the handicapped are in principle free of charge to the individual. They are supplied without a means test and there is no upper limit for the cost of the aid. Even repair and maintenance of the aid occur without cost to the handicapped person.

Housing and Transport

The objective of Swedish housing policy is to provide the whole population with sound, well-planned and practical dwellings of a high standard and at a reasonable cost. In planning housing special regard should be paid to the needs of the elderly and the handicapped. Building by-laws prescribed that dwellings with some exceptions should be designed so that they can also be used by persons with reduced mobility and orientational ability.

For those with more serious motor handicaps and other severely handicapped persons special measures are, however, often required. There is a special government housing allowance to enable the dwelling to be designed to meet the handicapped persons' individual requirements.

In order to provide those with severe motor handicaps and other severely handicapped persons with good housing with adequate service, there are special service flats with a home help service on call. This means that the tenant can obtain the service and care he needs 24 hours a day.

In many cases not only access to technical aids is needed, but personal assistance in the dwelling as well. This assistance is provided by the municipalities in the form of a home help service. Government subsidies are paid to cover 35 per cent of the costs of this service. The help is primarily intended for cleaning, shopping and cooking. To a certain extent it is also intended for walks, visits to cultural institutions, and in other situations with a view to breaking the isolation of the handicapped.

In the last few years there has been a trend towards transferring people from institutions to various forms of independent integrated housing. This trend is particularly noticeable in the case of the mentally retarded.

Public transport, including platforms, stations, etc., is usually designed in such a way that particularly persons with physical handicaps, such as motor impediments and defective sight and hearing, have difficulty in using them.

In order to solve the question of communications for these persons as well, a special communications system, the so-called transport service, has been set up. For this service all the municipalities use taxis or special vehicles in the case of the severely handicapped and receive a government subsidy of 35 per cent.

As an experiment a national transport service is being set up, which means that the handicapped person can use transport services outside his own municipality as well. The passenger then pays a certain rate himself, and the rest is covered by government funds.

There is also a proposal to make alterations in some railway coaches for the convenience of the disabled.

Education

The Child Care Act came into force on 1 January 1977. The Act applies to children of 0-12 years of age. According to the Act physically handicapped children should be given priority in a pre-school place.

Within the country councils' rehabilitation organization for motor-handicapped children resources have been developed for medical investigation and treatment, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech training, social counselling and pre-school educational measures in the form of so-called special pre-schools.

In the last few years it has become more and more common for mentally retarded children too to be integrated in ordinary groups in municipal pre-schools.

Within the county councils' educational hearing service there are specially trained pre-school teachers. They work with stimulating the children's language development and giving support to their families. Pre-school activities are organized so that either three or four children with defective hearing form part of a larger group, or individual children with defective hearing attend their ordinary pre-school.

There are nine pre-school advisers for support and aid to children with defective vision. They are stationed regionally and are attached to Tomtebodas Skola, which is a state special school for children with visual impairments.

Children with defective vision, who have no additional handicaps, are in most cases integrated in normal groups in ordinary pre-schools. If they have multiple handicaps, e.g. the mentally retarded, they often attend the country councils' own pre-schools.

Children with other handicaps, e.g. epilepsy, asthma and haemophilia, attend the regular municipal pre-school.

The main principle with regard to the education of the handicapped is that they have the same right to education as others and in principle the right to take part in the same activities.

The majority of motor-handicapped children and many pupils with defective vision and hearing now attend ordinary classes or special classes in ordinary schools.

For severely visually handicapped children there are two state special schools, one of which is for pupils with additional handicaps. For deaf children there are six special schools.

At universities and colleges of higher education the handicapped take part in the ordinary tuition. Anyone in need of special aids can obtain or borrow these via the centre for educational aid in the place of study. Special support during tuition and personal assistance during the working day are provided by the university or college of higher education. In addition the handicapped person is entitled to attendant services for individual help in his everyday life at home. Attendant services are free of charge for students.

Many handicapped adults received inadequate schooling in their youth. For them the opportunity to take part in various forms of adult education is of great importance. All the adult education associations and the majority of folk high schools organize activities for the handicapped.

Working Life

"Employment for all" is the aim of Swedish employment policy. It also includes measures to facilitate handicapped persons' employment opportunities on the open market and to create employment for those who do not obtain such employment.

An easily accessible work environment is a necessary condition for handicapped persons to obtain work. In addition to the provisions of the Building Act, which also cover work premises, the Work Environment Act now prescribes that the employer is obliged to adapt working conditions (physical environment, work organization, etc.) to individuals' physical and mental requirements. This means demands for adaptation to individuals with various handicaps as well.

The employment service can give subsidies for the individual adaptation of work places and work aids.

The aim of the employment service's rehabilitation activities is that the handicapped person should be able to work on the open market, in semi-sheltered or sheltered employment, or in his own business.

Sheltered employment activities are financed by the government and run by regional foundations supervised on a fifty-fifty basis by the government and the county councils/local authorities.

In 1974 two laws came into force with the aim of strengthening the situation of employees on the labour market and in particular that of the elderly and the handicapped.

There has been a negative trend for the handicapped on the labour market during the last few years. The efforts of labour market policy are aimed at breaking this trend and increasing handicapped persons' opportunities for obtaining employment above all on the open market.

The so-called adjustment teams, which are bodies for consultation between the employment service, the employer and the trade unions, are an important instrument in this work. The aim is to introduce labour market policy into companies and facilitate the re-employment and the taking on of elderly and handicapped employees. Adjustment teams should be found in companies with more than 50 employees. At present there are 5,000 such groups.

Within the national insurance scheme there are a number of benefits, which are of special interest to the handicapped.

When the new Social Services Act comes into force in 1982 it may be seen as confirmation of a long and difficult development process for the entire social sector. The important thing in this development is that it is established that mental and physical reasons must not constitute obstacles to the individual's basic right to live largely like other people. Living conditions should not be created in an artificial environment of special arrangements, but by removing as far as possible those conditions which exclude people from social contacts and participation today. □

Care of the Disabled in China

Yi Shui

CHINA'S programme for the care of the disabled stresses one basic point : Integration.

While the totally disabled and the mentally incapable have been provided with sheltered conditions, those disabled persons who can work are encouraged to take jobs in normal environment.

It is the same for the children : schooling where possible with physically sound children and if the other pupils have to shoulder the job of settling them in, so much the better. That's the best age to teach them compassion and the benefits of a harmonious society.

The state programme, inevitably tied to China's economic conditions, divides into two parts : in the cities, where industry is owned by the state, and the countryside where 800 million of China's 1, 000 million population depend on the collective economy.

In the cities, the handicapped are generally assigned by the state labour department to factories and commercial establishments where a small percentage of jobs is reserved for them, by urban street committees and suburban people's communes to neighbourhood and commune-run factories and by the civil affairs department to welfare factories where about 35 per cent of the workers are disabled.

Welfare factories operate under the aegis of the local civil affairs bureaux and countrywide they produce a range of around 1, 000 products including electronic components, bakelite and plastic fittings, textiles, rubber products and vehicle accessories.

The factories are given preferential treatment in allocations of materials and production and marketing aids. Factories with at least 35 per cent of their workforce of disabled are exempted from state taxes.

Profits are used to expand production and improve living and working conditions which pose special problems for handicapped workers, while losses are made good by state subsidies. This is somewhat different from the practice in other factories where the trend is towards self-management and responsibility for their own profits and losses.

There are 1,022 welfare factories scattered throughout the cities of China. Shanghai, the largest industrial city, has 18 employing several thousand disabled people, mainly blind and deaf-mutes. Almost 7,300 handicapped people found jobs there last year.

At a Shanghai bicycle accessory factory, more than half the 500 workers are blind or deaf. Over 50 per cent of the 62 working processes in making bicycle pedals, for example, are done by blind workers who operate 80 per cent of the factory's machine tools.

The need for a productive input from disabled persons is not a high priority in a country which has never been short of able-bodied workers. But the need to make them feel a normally-valued part of society is important in a culture which stresses cohesion and unanimity of purpose.

At a Beijing rubber and metalware factory, one of the city's 11 welfare work units, the machines have been modified for operation by disabled folk and production schedules have been geared to a reasonable pace for the roughly 50-50 mix of disabled and able-bodied workers.

The factory has around 900 workers in five workshops making metalware, rubber goods and watch straps, preparing raw materials and doing repair work.

Ding Yujie, the factory trade union representative with special responsibility for women workers has been working with handicapped persons for more than 20 years, and she has become something of a one-woman counselling agency in the factory. She gives help and advice on everything from a torn sleeve to fashion tips for blind women and children's sickness and even does a bit of matchmaking.

Chang Yuxin, who is crippled, met his bride, Shao Yaping, a deaf-mute, through the kindly offices of 'sister' Ding. Ding Yujie says that dozens more couples at the factory are expected to marry this year (1981). It has nothing to do with the mutual attraction of handicapped people, she said. It has to do with the confidence they get from operating normally so that they can face normal married life without fear.

Benefit to all Children

Integration of disabled and able-bodied children is also a strong element in China's educational policy, although special schools have also been set up where blind children can learn braille and deaf-mutes can learn sign language.

The head of Beijing municipal education bureau, Han Zoli, said : "We have found having handicapped children in our schools to be a positive factor. The courage and confidence shown by them in overcoming their difficulties is an object lesson to normal students in the cultivation of good character and it has been a unifying influence among the schoolmates."

Pupils at Shou Koudian middle school, southwest Beijing, took turns every day for five years to make sure that their classmate Li Liqun, whose legs are paralysed, got to school on time from her home one mile away. Altogether there were 40 students working on the "Liqun express." On any given day, whatever the weather, there were always more helpers than needed to push Liqun along in her specially-made carriage. Li Liqun graduated last summer and is now studying to be an English translator.

The situation of disabled people in the rural areas is somewhat different. The pace of life and progress in the countryside is governed largely by the needs of the collective economy, in which the commune is the basic unit.

Another factor is the greater importance attached to social conventions and the integrity of the family unit. Out of these two elements has developed an effective method of easing disabled persons into normal working life to the degree to which they are able to function normally. They remain the responsibility of the family and the large community as represented by the commune, although state subsidies are available for those in need.

However, the state has laid down guidelines that insist that where possible blind and other disabled people are given responsibility for certain agricultural tasks or jobs in collective enterprises run by the communes or production brigades or villages. □

(Unesco Features)

France : An Environmental Approach

Philippe Saint-Martino

WITHIN the last few decades, attitudes to physical disability have shifted. A purely medical approach has been replaced by an environmental one, whereby the consequences of a physical or relational handicap are seen to depend on the relationship between the individual and the environment. Whether disabled or not any member of society belongs first of all to a family with a specific position in that society. So disabled people cannot be said to form a separate section of society.

When a man in a wheel chair is faced with the problem of getting up some steps, it is not so much his disability, but the steps themselves, that should be blamed. Indeed, steps are also a nuisance, and sometimes an insuperable barrier, to people carrying infants or heavy bags, or to those whose psychomotor abilities have been diminished by old age or fatigue. Similarly, a person's freedom to choose the kind of life pattern he wants is, to a varying degree, restricted by such phenomena as overcrowded pavements, with no ramps for hand-pushed vehicles, lack of public benches, traffic lights that change too quickly, doors that are too heavy, steps on buses and trains that are too high, and cramped compartmentalised housing.

Modern science and technology can of course make up for the shortcomings inherent in our present way of life. But they cannot do so without a concerted and consistent policy : accessibility, in the fullest sense of the term, requires action over a period of 10 to 15 years as well as considerable finance (though it should be remembered that a properly planned programme of accessibility does not impose an intolerable financial burden on public bodies, since it works out at an extra cost of about 10 per cent for a school and one per cent for an underground transport system such as the one now being built in the northern French city of Lille).

*Technical Adviser to the "Group for the Integration of the physically handicapped", France.

A lot has changed in France since 1966, when a group of disabled students set up the first door-to-door, "on call" transport service, with specially converted minibuses, thus postulating the right of the handicapped to get about even when unable to do so unaided. Many people at that time wondered whether we handicapped might not be better off at home with our families, or cared for in special centres, well away from the problems faced daily by the able-bodied. They were forgetting that work has nothing to do with the degree of a person's disability, but depends on his opportunity to meet other people. About 30 French cities (among them Nancy, Amiens, Berck, Lyon and Montpellier) run, at an annual cost to each inhabitant of four to five francs, special minibus services in addition to already existing buses (whose floors will be lowered by 10 or even 18 centimetres by 1985).

There then arises the problem of information and consultation, both of which necessarily involve close co-operation between decision-makers and users (i.e. the disabled). Action undertaken by the latter unfortunately tends to be belittled, and as a result their sense of being recipients of state aid is only heightened. As there is no reason why we should be ashamed of our disabilities, we must behave as full citizens writing to local authorities and other decision-makers, and, if necessary, setting up pressure groups although as taxpayers, we are unfairly debarred from most of the public facilities we help to finance (day nurseries, sports grounds, public transport, industrial estates and so on). Moreover, let us not forget that we can count on the support of public opinion when we demand more facilities and simple improvements that are in everybody's interest.

Quality of Life, Not Cost

It takes more than a mere administrative decision to create a village, district or town that is open to all whatever their physical and mental abilities; it must be built, painstakingly, day after day. Hence the need to get the public to think in terms not of 'the handicapped' but of 'accessibility' and 'adaptability' among other things, by setting up municipal and departmental accessibility committees (made up of users and technicians).

In the last 20 years, the city has been adapted to the need of the automobile, a process which, we are told, has boosted the economy and encouraged social progress. Yet no mention is made in this case, of excess costs. So would it really be impossible to re-adapt the city to the needs of men?

Our basic rights should no longer have to depend on the goodwill of other people (though this is always forthcoming), but rather result from a consistent and co-ordinated policy based on a consensus of opinion, without, however, ruling out pragmatism or social innovation. Some municipalities, for instance, distribute taxi-vouchers to handicapped elderly people unable to use public transport. In Stockholm, some 20,000 such persons enjoy these facilities, as well as the use of 50 minibuses. Similar vouchers are also available to many handicapped people in Brussels, and the idea has begun to catch on in France. In Turin, there is a system whereby the handicapped can travel by taxi

(Continued on page 100)

How Japan Cares

for the Disabled

IT is estimated on the basis of national surveys that the number of disabled persons in Japan in 1980 is around 3.5 million (2.1 million physically disabled persons, 400,000 mentally retarded persons and 1 million mentally ill persons). However, this number indicates only those whose disabilities are serious enough to entitle them the rehabilitation services and care programmes established in accordance with the various relevant laws. It is believed that if lighter disabilities were included, the number would be over five million, or approximately five per cent of the total population.

In order to enable the disabled to participate in the life of society, and to implement the necessary prevention, rehabilitation and protection measures, programmes are being carried out by the various Ministries on the basis of some 18 major laws.

The national budget for the implementation of these programmes in 1980 is one trillion 340 billion yen (approximately three per cent of the total national budget). This and the budgets of special agencies and local governments will total an estimated three trillion yen. This represents 1.2 per cent of Japan's Gross National Product (248 trillion yen), considerably in excess of the defence budget, which is 0.9 per cent of GNP. In addition, public spending on general preventive medical services will be in 1980 10 trillion yen, and this will greatly contribute to the prevention of disabilities.

In 1970, the Diet enacted the Fundamental Law for Counter-measures for Mentally and Physically Handicapped Persons, which made clear the government's fundamental thinking with regard to measures for disabled persons. The Law required the government to work to create a comprehensive and integrated system of measures for the disabled. The government intended the enacting of the Law as a turning point in policy making, and, indeed, it accelerated the improvement of measures for disabled persons. The result has been rapid and far-reaching growth in the area of government measures, including a remarkable increase in the number of disabled persons receiving government assistance and for benefiting from government services and programmes, the introduction of new allowances, and so forth.



Handicapped women learning to knit

Welfare offices and municipal offices offer consultation services for the mentally and physically handicapped. They also offer services which provide ongoing care for the mentally or physically handicapped.

Welfare offices are staffed with welfare officers for the physically handicapped and welfare officers for the mentally handicapped who are experts in their respective fields. These officers conduct consultation services and extend necessary guidance. People can go to the welfare offices when they want to receive training, pensions, tax reliefs, and other daily or vocational activities.

Experts offer consultation services and extend proper guidance on all types of problems concerning children.

At public health centres designated for medical guidance (designated by prefectural governors), orthopaedic surgeons and other medical specialists provide periodic medical guidance for early detection of physically handicapped children and proper treatment at the early stage.

The Center also accepts applications for granting medical care expenses and the provision of prosthetics.

Volunteer workers, in consultation with the mentally and physically handicapped or their families, provide guidance to take the mentally and physically handicapped towards self-independence and rehabilitation as well as promote social welfare in cooperation with the government offices concerned.

Voluntary counsellors provide rehabilitation counselling and necessary guidance. They also act as a nucleus in community services work as well as in the joint work with welfare offices and other related offices for the dissemination of rehabilitation mindedness.

Counselling services covering such matters as medical treatment, daily living and vocation as well as referral services to suitable institutions are provided.

Distribution of the Physically Disabled Persons Handbook with Certificate: The persons who are granted this handbook are eligible to receive various kinds of welfare assistance under the Law for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped, 1949, reduction or exemption of taxes, and fare discount from the Japanese National Railways. A handbook for mentally retarded persons is granted separately.



Ikebance arrangement by the handicapped

The physically handicapped receive medical treatment benefits to alleviate or eliminate their disabilities.

Prosthetic appliances to compensate the handicapped persons functional disability, such as safety canes for the blind, hearing-aids, artificial legs and hands, wheelchairs and electric wheel-chairs are distributed or repaired.

For severely handicapped persons, special bathtubs, special toilet basins and Japanese typewriters for the blind, etc., are distributed or lent to help their daily living.

Helpers visit the homes of the severely handicapped who find it difficult to live alone due to their disability to look after their daily personal needs.

The mobile medical examination system for the severely handicapped helps those who are homebound because of their handicap, and conducts medical examination and consultation.

For the severely handicapped who find it difficult to go out, welfare telephone may be rented to get communication and to secure emergency means.

When the custodians of the severely handicapped become unable to take care of the handicapped due to illness or accident, the handicapped are rendered temporary care at rehabilitation facilities or institutions etc.

The physically and mentally handicapped who need special medical treatment, training for daily living and vocational training, or the severely handicapped who find it difficult to live independently at their homes, will be referred to rehabilitation centres in order to receive adequate rehabilitation services. There are 373 centres in Japan to provide rehabilitation and employment facilities to the physically handicapped. They can accommodate about 23,000 persons. For the mentally handicapped there are 428 rehabilitation centres, 89 sheltered workshops

In July 1979, the National Rehabilitation Centre for the physically handicapped was opened in Tokorozawa city, Saitama Prefecture. The purpose of this centre is to rehabilitate handicapped persons in a way that will facilitate their return into society. It is designed to 1, provide integrated and comprehensive rehabilitation services ranging from medical treatment to vocational training, 2. make research and development of overall rehabilitation techniques, 3. gather and provide information on rehabilitation, and

4. educate and train specialists in this field. The centre is expected to function as the core of the country's rehabilitation activities hereafter.

For non-resident disabled persons, there are separate training centres and workshops.

There are separate centres for the treatment and rehabilitation of physically and mentally disabled children. There is also provision for preventing and early detection of disability in the case of children.

Public annuity plans such as the National Employee's Pension Plan and the National Pension Plan, based upon people's mutual assistance are social insurance plans in which such subscriber pays (contributes) the insurance premium to guarantee his income from circumstances such as old age (retirement), injury (invalidity) and death.

Other than these plans the non-contributory type of welfare pension plans embodied in the national pension plan is available. The disability welfare pension is offered to those who become disabled due to accidents and illnesses before subscribing to the pension plan (under 20 years old) and before the comprehensive national pension plan came into effect.

Parents or foster parents who have mentally and physically handicapped children below age 20 receive allowance for child support.

Those severely handicapped who need constant help in their everyday living receive welfare allowance.

Mutual aid allowance insurance plant for the mentally and physically handicapped provides for monthly pension to them after the death of their guardians.

Various measure of tax exemption or tax reduction have been granted to the working handicapped persons and to the persons who are supporting handicapped family members. They are also provided postal concession and priority in getting housing loans and houses.

Education and Employment

Children who are blind, deaf, mentally retarded, crippled or health impaired are offered special education in two forms depending on their type and degree of disabilities—in special schools and in special classes within regular elementary and lower secondary schools. Special education offers academic education following the regular school system and also aims to cultivate children's abilities and skills to overcome their disabilities. The government, from the viewpoint of equal educational opportunity for all, is carrying out programmes to improve school buildings, and facilities as well as the teaching staff. As of May 1, 1978 a total number of 71,774 children were enrolled in kindergarten, elementary, lower secondary and upper secondary departments of 73 schools for the blind, 110 schools for the deaf, and 504 schools for the crippled. 125,075 children were enrolled 125,075 special classes set up in regular elementary and lower secondary schools.

Enrolment of handicapped children in special schools became compulsory from April 1, 1979. With this, those mentally retarded, crippled or health impaired children who were not offered any opportunity to receive education at all or who were offered inadequate education will be given adequate education depending on their disabilities.

In order to offer the opportunity to receive systematic education as much as possible, teachers from special schools visit those severely or multiple handicapped children who regularly need assistance for their daily activities, and thus find it difficult to attend schools.

The mentally and physically handicapped persons, too, will find their lives worth living if they could find suitable occupations, fully utilize their abilities, and participate in special activities with able-bodied persons. All of them are also important to the society.

However, at present the employment rate of the handicapped is 54 per cent, quite lower than that of the general population which is 66 per cent (1975). Among others, the work status of the handicapped is quite low.

To cope with the employment situation and to strengthen and widen the existing programmes, the Physically Handicapped Persons' Employment Promotion Law was amended in 1976. With the cooperative responsibility of enterprises as the basic principle, the amendments were made to intensify the obligation of employers of enterprises and agencies to hire the handicapped. To financially back up the programmes for more effective practice of the law, the Physically Handicapped Persons' Employment Payment System was set up, and other basic measures were reinforced. As the result of the amendments, a part of this law also became applicable to the mentally handicapped persons.

The employers of enterprises and agencies, at the time of engaging or discharging of workers, must see to it that the number of physically handicapped workers regularly employed exceeds the number so stipulated according to the legal employment rate of physically handicapped persons as fixed by the Ministry of labour Ordinance. The employment ratio is fixed as follows :

Public Agencies	Clerical	1.8%
	Non-clerical	1.9%
Private Enterprises	Legal persons	1.5%
	Other private enterprises	1.8%

The employers of handicapped persons are granted various bounties by the Government.

An on-the-job training programme for the handicapped is entrusted to the employers from the prefecture Government to be conducted for 6 months (one year for the severely handicapped) to help them reduce anxiety about the work, to develop the needed skills in work and to adjust themselves to the work environment so that they can be employed there after the period of training. Both the trainees and employers are given monthly allowances by the government.

Accessibility of public facilities, public transportation system and roads is expected to be improved in order to make them available to the handicapped. There also are increasing demands for information services as well as cultural activities.

The government has established project teams in the National Council for Disabled Persons. They investigate the relationship between promotion of social activities for the handicapped and public facilities at large. At the same time, ministries make efforts to carry out comprehensive policies and to strengthen the contact among themselves.

Measures like making alterations in public buildings, footpaths, houses for the disabled, transport system, etc., to suit disabled persons are being systematically carried out at Government cost. □

France : An Environmental Approach

Contd. from page 97

four times a day for the same price as by public transport(the difference is made up by the municipality).

The notion of cost is anyway a relative one, insofar as it also has to take account of factors on which no figure can be put. Surely, if we were able to share our daily lives with able-bodied people, they would feel less embarrassment or fear when faced with a handicapped person. Surely such a change in attitudes must be regarded as a vital factor in any cost-benefit calculation of the quality of life.

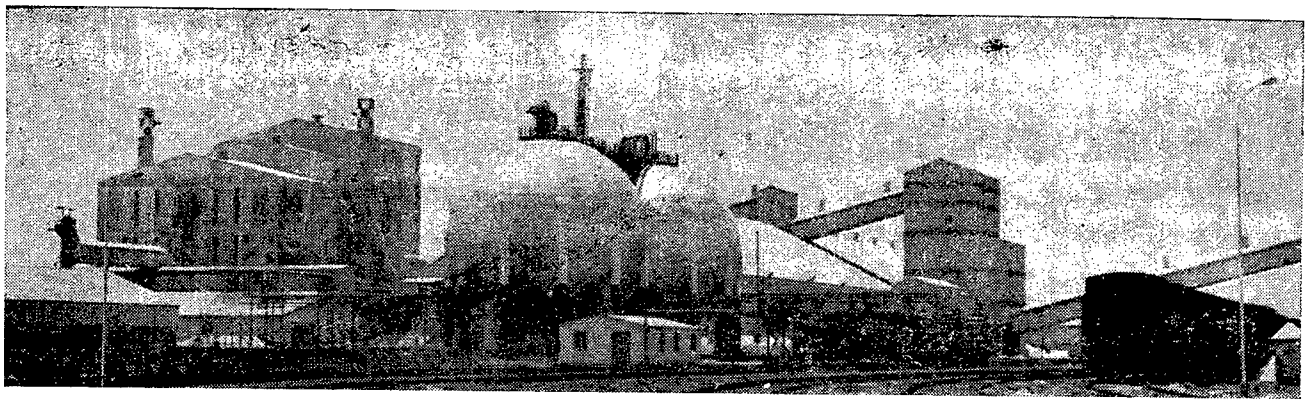
(UNESCO features)

New employment Generation strategy

THE problem of unemployment in our country is acute and complex. Besides long-term unemployment, we are facing the problem of underemployment. Seasonal unemployment and under-employment of varying intensity prevails in all the rural areas as agriculture provides the people therewith seasonal work. This was stated by the Union Minister for Planning and Labour and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, while addressing the meeting of chairmen of Committees set up by the National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs recently.

He said an indepth study of the employment data had revealed that only 12 per cent of the increase in the labour force was absorbed in the organised sector. Since the absorptive capacity of the organised sector was limited vis-a-vis large increases in the labour force, the Sixth Five Year Plan had emphasised promotion of self-employment as the major vehicle of providing gainful employment thus utilising the idle human resources. The new approach to manpower planning and employment generation naturally called for a new organisational structure at the micro level. It had, therefore, been decided to set up a District Manpower Planning and Employment Generation Council with appropriate professional staff support in each district of the country.

Referring to the work of the High Level National Guidance Committee for Self-employment under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Member, Planning Commission, Mr. Tiwari said, that important recommendation of the first meeting of the Committee was that priority should be given to landless labour families, educated unemployed and women in the field of self-employment. Another important recommendation related to the provision of package of services in terms of supply of raw materials, credit and marketing facilities. Similar State level Committees had been visualised under the State Planning Boards. □



IFFCO'S NPK Unit at Kandla Port (Gujarat) the annual capacity of which has been doubled to one million tonnes

Towards New Horizons IFFCO Style

R. R. Rao*

THE Indian Farmers, Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) proposes to set up another ammonia plant based on Bombay High gas, in Sixth Plan. Either Topsoe Haldor or Kellogs, the two overseas companies involved in Thal Vaishet and Hazira, will provide the consultancy service. The new plant with a capacity to produce 1350 tonnes of ammonia per day, will have facilities to convert ammonia into urea and nitro-phosphate complex fertiliser. The project will cost Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 crores. This was disclosed by Shri L. R. Talwar, Managing Director of IFFCO at a press conference recently.

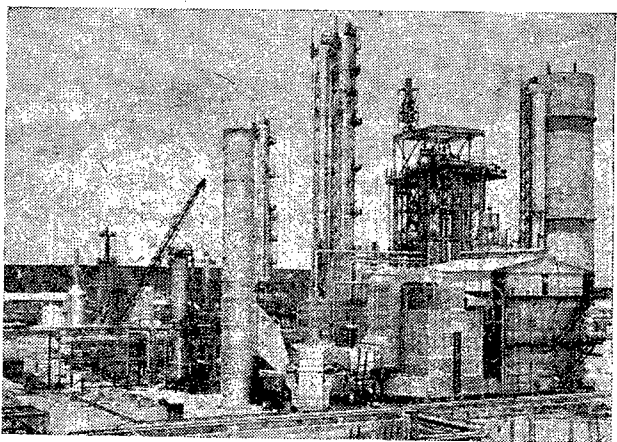
In its overseas joint venture in Senegal to produce phosphoric acid and solid phosphatic fertilisers, the IFFCO will contribute Rs. 8 crores out of the Indian share capital of Rs. 17.7 crores. As a result India will get an assured supply of 1.10 lakh tonnes of P_2O_5 annually from the joint venture.

IFFCO's Phulpur Ammonia-Urea Complex achieved the rated capacity of ammonia production within three weeks of its commissioning. During the period April-June 1981, the capacity utilisation of the plant had been 70 per cent against the all Indian average of 53 per cent for similar plant in 1980-81. Kandla Expansion Scheme, constructed at a cost of Rs. 28.5 crore, went on stream on June 4, 1981. With this the production capacity of Kandla Plant has gone up by one million tonnes of NPK per annum. Malathion

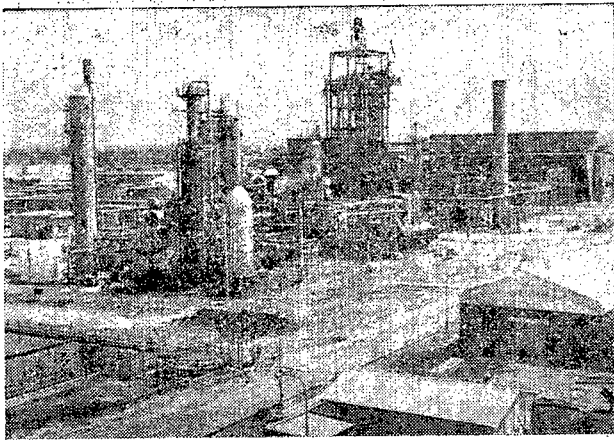
Plant at Kalol, with a capacity of 500 tonnes of Technical Grade Malathion, and constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.38 crores has been commissioned.

During the Cooperative year 1980-81, Kalol unit attained the capacity utilisation of 92 per cent and 80 per cent by producing 2.77 lakh tonnes of ammonia and 3.17 lakhs tonnes of urea respectively. The ammonia output is the highest achieved so far. Kandla

IFFCO'S ammonia urea complex at Phulpur near Allahabad



* Our Correspondent



IFFCO'S ammonia Plant at Kalol in Gujarat
 unit produced 6.30 lakh tonnes of NPK against 5.51 lakh tonnes during 1978-79. The Phulpur Unit commissioned in March 1981, produced 73,000 tonnes of ammonia and 1.08 lakh tonnes of urea. Thus the IFFCO has shown an increase of 25 per cent in the total production of urea and NPK fertilisers over its last year's output. For the third consecutive year the IFFCO continued to be the largest single producer of Nitrogen and phosphatic fertilisers, put together.

The Cooperative produced 11 per cent of the total nitrogens and 23 per cent of phosphatic fertilisers manufactured in the country during the financial year 1980-81. In recognition of the same, the IFFCO was awarded the Fertiliser Association of India's shield for "the best production performance in a fertiliser plant" in the year 1980.

In 1981-82, the IFFCO has planned to produce 7.6 lakh tonnes of urea and 8.50 lakh tonnes of NPK from its three units.

The Government of India, IFFCO and State Cooperatives have recently promoted a multi-unit cooperative called Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd., (KRIBHCO). Out of Rs. 500 crores of authorised capital, IFFCO's share is Rs. 100 crores. The KRIBHCO, when ready, would produce 15 lakh tonnes of urea per annum.

The IFFCO has distributed 100,800 tonnes of its products in 1980-81 through a net work of cooperatives spread over 16 States and three Union Territories against 8,20,000 tonnes in 1979-80. The turnover in this year is Rs. 230 crores against Rs. 139 crores in 1979-80. Projected sales of materials for 1981-82 is 1.6 million tonnes, that is, an increase of 59 per cent over 1980-81 with a turnover of Rs. 358 crores.

The IFFCO has earned a profit of about Rs. 14.5 crore in the cooperative year 1980-81 and a total profit of Rs. 134.34 crore in six years. □

Letters to the Editor

College Planning Forum

AS Director of the College Planning Forum I feel that the Forums have been doing yeoman's service to propagate the Plan, to carry out constructive activities in the villages and conduct a number of Socio-economic Surveys. But unfortunately, for the past some years, the Central and State Governments and the Planning Commission are not extending any financial support to the Planning Forums. It is high time that the Planning Forums in colleges are revived and given a new incentive to function effectively.

Prof. T. V. Srinivasan
 Director (College Planning Forum),
 Islamia Post Graduate College,
 Vaniyambadi.

Wood-Fuelled Power Houses

NOT only developing countries in Central Africa but even the advanced countries like Sweden, Finland and parts of America are establishing power stations based on wood. For the next ten years the Philippines have planned to establish 200 Megawatts of similar power plants which will save annually four million barrels of imported fuel oil. The basis of this plan is the remarkable tree called "Schmu". During 1981 about 30,000 hectares of land will be planted with Schmu. The first 3 Megawatt plant will be ready by 1982 and require 100 tons of wood every day. The wood will be supplied by 1000 hec-

tares planted with Schmu. The yield of each hectare would be 20 to 50 tons per year according to the soil and rainfall. Electricity thus produced will be cheaper.

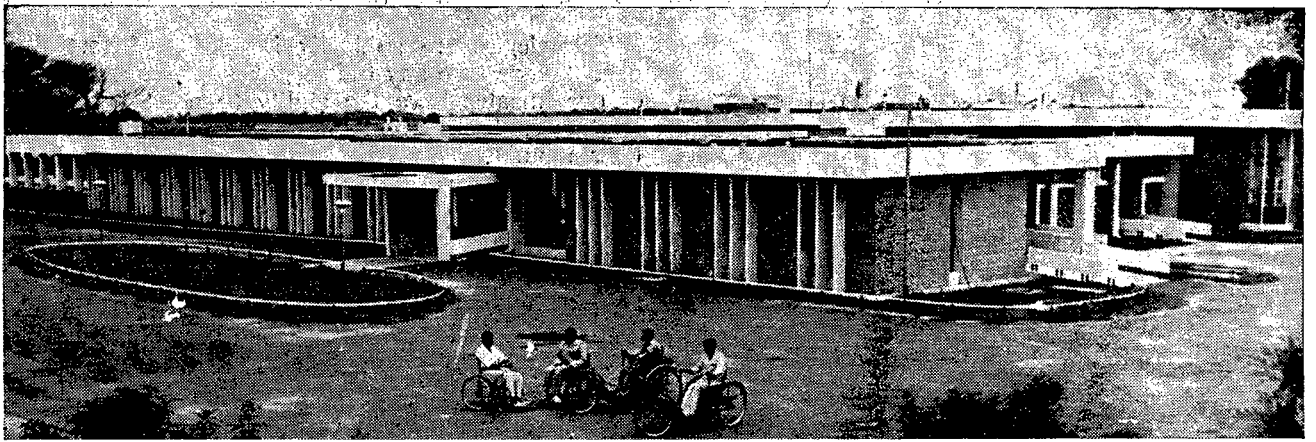
All types of soil can be utilized for the plantation. The farmers too can plant them in their lands as it gives more income than the usual seasonal crops. A farmer can earn as much as Rs. 10,000 annually per acre without relying on the vagaries of monsoon. It will increase forest area, utilize fully the waste and hilly lands, purify the environment, help to store rainwater underground, check soil erosion and floods, attract rains and save the huge amount of foreign exchange required to import fuel oil.

Nautamlal C. Tejpal
 College Wadi, Rajkot-360001.

Very Useful

I am a regular reader of "Yojana". The Republic Day Special Issue of Yojana was very informative. It gave us contentment and was very useful to the students of commerce as well as arts. After Independence the developmental plans chalked out and implemented so far were exhaustively described only in your "Yojana".

Pramod Kr. Tiwary
 Allahabad Degree College,
 Beni-Ganj,
 Allahabad.



Exterior view of Paraplegic Home (North), Mohali and its inmates

The Paraplegic Home at Mohali

Colonel D. D. N. Areja

THE second Paraplegic Home at Mohali (Punjab) accommodates at present 30 patients. It is being expanded to take in 100 inmates. (The first Home is at Kirkee).

In this Home we admit only ex-servicemen from the three services specially from the North and Central India, who are suffering from paraplegia (paralysis of lower limbs) or tetraplegia (paralysis of all the four-limbs), contracted as a result of spinal cord injury or disease during or after service and have reached the stage of finality, so far as treatment in Special Spinal Cord injury Centres is concerned, but cannot go or do not like to go to their own Homes due to social, financial or medical reasons. They are financially poor, their disablement is permanent and more or less 100 per cent, can move around only on wheel chairs, are prone to bed sores, urinary tract infections, bowel upsets and chest infection. The service and care needed to look after them, are not possible within their means, at their own homes.

Excellent accommodation by way of airy well ventilated four-bedded rooms, with attached spacious bath rooms/toilets, fitted with wash basins, bathing benches, showers and geysers have been provided to single paraplegics. The room for tetraplegics is air-conditioned. All the rooms have been furnished with high quality orthopaedic beds and other ward furniture. Married inmates have been provided with independent two-roomed suites. Personal clothing, bed line, washing and barber facilities are provided free of cost. Ample number of medical attendants attend and assist them in bathing, change of clothing, lifting and feeding.

Wholesale nutritious food is provided at Rs. 6.50 per head per day, free of cost to the inmates. Those staying with families are given messing allowance at Rs. 6.50 per day for themselves only.

The requisite medical cover is provided whenever needed. All the precautions are taken to prevent bed sore, urinary tract infection, bowel troubles and chest infection. Inmates requiring investigations and hospi-

talisation are referred to Command Hospital for management.

Welfare

Initial as well as follow-up action for settlement of credit balances provident fund, insurance and pension are undertaken promptly and vigorously by us.

Units, formations, social and welfare organisations are tapped from time to time for financial and material help to inmates with good measure of success. Limited leave is permissible and guests can visit them.

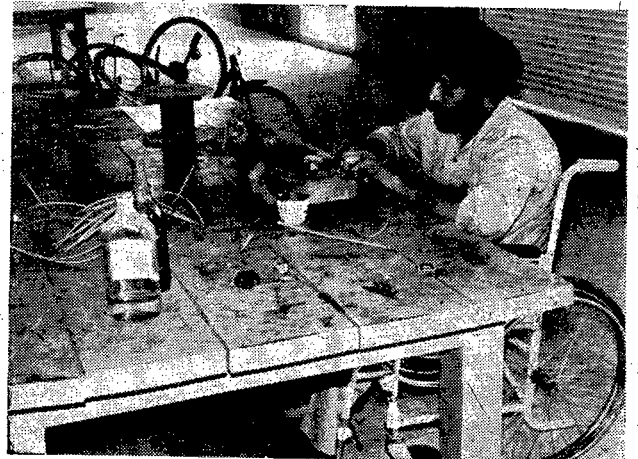
To lend pleasantness to their lives, we have spacious cosily furnished recreation room, equipped with TV, radio, table tennis and other indoor games. A three-channel music system has also been added recently.

Once a month, we take them out for picnic and sight seeing in ambulance van. There is a well stocked library and two Corps units help us by sending old magazines and periodicals.

Free passes have been arranged for them to see movies in the neighbouring cinema halls. Cultural programmes and cinema shows are arranged on the premises occasionally.

Sitting on wheel chairs, the inmates can play games like basket ball and table tennis. They can also partake in sports like javelin, discus, shotput, weight lifting, etc. A swimming pool is also in the offing.

A paraplegic is seen preparing loop cables assembling by soldering for HMT



(Contd. on Cover IV)

(Continued from cover III)



A tetraplegic painting with colour pencil holding in his mouth.

Therapy

We have a qualified physiotherapist and a well-equipped physiotherapy department for imparting therapeutic and remedial exercises needed to improve the patients' residual muscle power.

The inmates are suffering from an irreversible disablement. Most of the time they have nothing to keep their body and mind occupied. They also harbour the feeling of social and financial insecurity. As such, they become prone to bouts of depression, disenchantment and frustration. They also suffer from home sickness. Therefore, despite all physical and material comforts, their emotional integration is difficult to achieve. But we keep trying persistently, to motivate and re-educate them with patience, tenderness and tact with a view to re-orientate them to the way of life in this Home.

Diversional occupational therapy which is treatment by work and diversion from pre-occupation with one's disability so as to have purposeful activity and gainful achievement is also given to the patients. For this, a lot of motivation is needed to arouse the will power of inmates.

One of the reasons for locating this Home at Mohali was to harness the resources of the industrial complex for vocational training of inmates and their subsequent employment/engagement in remunerative jobs/trades. Several attempts have been made but no material success has been attained so far because of several factors—the main one being the general apathy of industrial houses to provide work to a large number of disabled persons.

Tetraplegics are so badly incapacitated that they cannot undertake any training or work. However, two of our inmates have the ability to paint replicas of greeting cards beautifully well by holding the pens in their mouths.

Paraplegic persons are capable of learning and undertaking any work which their upper limbs can do sitting on wheel chairs.

The Home has a spacious sheltered workshop hall. Although one can think of several vocational projects for paraplegic cases, like making electrical and electronic gadgets, learning and earning from basic trades like tailoring, knitting, caning, book binding and file making, doll making, watch repairing, candle making and so on but many of them are not feasible because of the lack of finances. So we have to find work for the inmates in such a way that there is no investment by or risk for the Home, that the work is simple to learn and execute and that no extra manpower is required and that the work is remunerative. Accordingly, this Home is procuring suitable unskilled manual work from local industry.

Last year this Home got work worth Rs. 5,500 from HMT Tractor Factory. This year we have received work order for Rs. 25,000 for them, which is sufficient to engage all paraplegics of this Home. Seeing the capabilities of our inmates, the Punjab Tractors Ltd. are now likely to give us some work. Our target is Rs. 40,000 worth work this year so that all paraplegics can get handsome remuneration throughout the year.

Last year we were able to procure order for Ex-Signalman, Radhakrishnan, who is a case of tetraplegia to paint 500 greeting cards. This year we have got order for painting 800 cards and he would be able to earn Rs. 3000 this year.

This Home has also approached and got from State Governments, formations, units and social organisations help in cash and kind. □

A paraplegic being looked after in the Home.

