

**IN THE COURT OF
THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

New Secretariat Rd, Nagaland: Kohima – 797004

Ph: +91 8258953837, Email: scpdnagaland@gmail.com

(Vested with powers of Civil Court under Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016)

SUO MOTU INQUIRY NO.07/SCPD/2022-23

To,

1. The Commissioner & Secretary,
To the Government of Nagaland,
Department of School Education,
Nagaland, Kohima.
2. The Principal Director and Project Director,
Nagaland Education Project, the Lighthouse (NECTAR),
Directorate of School Education,
Nagaland, Kohima.
3. The Director,
State Council of Education, Research and Training,
Nagaland, Kohima.

ORDER

Date...09/12/2022...

The Court is in receipt of the replies furnished by all the Respondents to the Suo Motu Inquiry and is placed on record.

On perusal of the replies, the Court is pleased that the State Respondents are maintaining data regarding students with disabilities District-wise along with their specific disabilities. Respondent Nos. 4 & 5 of the Suo Motu Inquiry, World Bank India, were impleaded as they being the financing entity to the Nagaland Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project (NECTAR), it was observed that mention regarding students with disabilities were very limited

in the Project Design and, as such, the Suo Motu Inquiry was initiated. Hence, the respondents were made parties as it becomes imperative that it is in their knowledge regarding the present scenario.

The following observations and recommendations are made to the State Respondents.

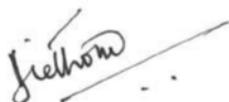
1. It is observed that at present, American Sign Language or Naga-American Sign Language is largely being taught by the SCERT instead of the Indian Sign Language, albeit an introduction to Indian Sign Language is included in the curriculum. The Court makes absolutely clear that there is no objection to the use of any sign language. However, it is further observed that since Indian Sign Language is the standard sign language being used in the various educational programmes and institutes of the country, there have been instances whereby students have faced difficulties in pursuing further studies/programmes outside the State, and had to undergo crash courses in Indian Sign Language before they were able to continue their studies as they had been taught only American Sign Language. There is a need to avoid such situations.
2. It is also observed that some special schools as well as inclusive schools in the State are teaching American Sign Language while others are teaching Indian Sign Language.
3. It is further observed that, as a step towards fulfilling the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016 and New Education Policy, 2020, the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to make NCERT textbooks accessible to hearing-impaired students in sign language, whereby NCERT textbooks, teachers' handbooks and other

materials for Class I-XII of all subjects in Hindi and English medium are being converted into Indian Sign Language (ISL) in digital format.

4. It is the recommendation of this Court that the Department of School Education take steps and lay down appropriate regulations to avoid situations such as stated above in observation No 1, while also ensuring that all sign languages currently being used in the State are respected and included.
5. Secondly, it is also recommended that more Trained Special Education Teachers be appointed on regular basis under the Department of School Education.

The Suo Motu Inquiry is hereby disposed off with the direction to the State Respondents that copies be furnished to the Court as per the reply bearing Letter No. NEP-PMU-25/CORR-LETTERS-1/2021-22 dated 25.08.22, to Query No.13.

Given under my hand and seal, on this the...^{9th}...day of *December*, 2022.



(DIETHONO NAKHRO)

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities,
Nagaland: Kohima.

Court of Commissioner (Disabilities)
New Secretariat Road
Nagaland : Kohima

Copy to:

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland, for information
2. The Commissioner & Secretary, Social Welfare Department Nagaland, for information
3. The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, New Delhi for information
4. Office Copy

(DIETHONO NAKHRO)

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities,
Nagaland: Kohima.