GOVERNMENT OF GOA
Directorate of Social Welfare
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No. 9(6)-2022-23-EPwD/Sect (2)/4586 Dated: 02/12/2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

A Copy of the under mentioned O.M No. F.No.29-6/2019-DD-III dated 10/08/2022 issued by Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), New-Delhi is forwarded for strict compliance by all the Heads of Government/Offices, Public Sector Undertaking and Autonomous Bodies.

S Kamat

(Sandhya Kamat)
Director of Social Welfare
Ex-Officio Addl. Secretary(SW)

To,
All the Head of Department/Offices.

F. No. 29-6/2019-DD-III
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
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Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, New Delhi – 110003
Dated: the 10th August, 2022

Office Memorandum

Subject: Guidelines for conducting written examination for persons with specified disabilities covered under the definition of Section 2(s) of the RPwD Act, 2016 but not covered under the definition of Section 2(r) of the said Act, i.e. persons having less than 40% disability and having difficulty in writing

The undersigned is directed to say that this Department has issued guidelines for conducting written examination for persons with benchmark disabilities (i.e. with 40% or more disability, for whom the benefit of reservation in Government posts are allowed) on 29.08.2018 and corrigendum dated 08.02.2019 which inter-alia, provides for grant of scribe and compensatory time. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 11.02.2021 in the matter of Shri Vikash Kumar Vs UPSC and others has directed this Department to frame proper guidelines which would regulate and facilitate the grant of a facility of a scribe to persons with disability within the meaning of Section 2 (s) of the RPwD Act, 2016, where the nature of disability operates to impose a barrier to the candidate writing an examination. These guidelines should also prescribe appropriate norms to ensure that condition of the candidate isduly certified by such competent medical authority as may be prescribed so as to ensure that only genuine candidates in need of the facility are able to avail it.

2. Keeping in view the above order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, an Expert Committee was constituted to consider the issue and suggest guidelines accordingly. The Committee noted that there are various types of clinical problems that can affect the writing capacity. After careful consideration of the matter, the Committee recommended that sole criteria for grant ofscribe and compensatory time should be based on assessment of the capability of a person to write.

3. The Committee accordingly recommended the following guidelines for conducting written examination for persons with specified disabilities covered under the definition of Section2(s) of the RPwD Act,2016 but not covered under the definition of Section 2(r) of the said Act, i.e. persons having less than 40% disability and having difficulty in writing: -

(a) These guidelines may be called as Guidelines for conducting written examination for persons with specified disabilities covered under the definition of Section 2(s) of the RPwD Act, 2016 but not covered under the definition of Section 2(r) of the said Act, i.e. persons having less than 40% disability and having difficulty in writing.

(b) The facility of scribe and/or compensatory time shall be granted solely to those having difficulty in writing subject to production of a certificate to the effect that person concerned has limitation to write and that scribe is essential to write examination on his/her behalf from the competent medical authority of a Government healthcare institution as per proforma at **Appendix-I**.

(c) The medical authority for the purpose of certification as mentioned in point (b) above should be a multi-member authority comprising the following: -

i. Chief Medical officer/Civil Surgeon/Chief District Medical Officer.....Chairperson
ii. Orthopaedic/PMR specialist
iii. Neurologist, if available*
iv. Clinical Psychologist/Rehabilitation Psychologist/ Psychiatrist/Special Educator
v. Occupational therapist, if available*
vi. Any other expert based on the condition of the candidate as may be nominated by the Chairperson.

(* the Chief Medical Officer/Civil Surgeon/Chief District Medical Officer may make full efforts for inclusion of neurologists, occupational therapist from the nearest District or the Medical College/Institute, if the same is not available in the District)"

(d) The candidate should have the discretion of opting for his own scribe or request the Examination Body for the same. The examination body may also identify the scribe to make panels at the District/Division/State level as per the requirements of the examination. In later instances the candidates should be allowed to meet the scribe two days before the examination so that the candidates get a chance to check and verify whether the scribe is suitable or not.

(e) In case the examination body provides the scribe, it shall be ensured that qualification of the scribe should not be more than the minimum qualification criteria of the examination. However, the qualification of the scribe should always be matriculate or above.

In case the candidate is allowed to bring his own scribe, the qualification of the scribe should be one step below the qualification of the candidate taking examination. The person opting for own scribe should submit details of the own scribe as per proforma at **Appendix-II**.

(f) There should also be flexibility in accommodating any change in scribe in case of emergency. The candidates should also be allowed to take different scribe for writing different papers especially for languages. However, there can be only one scribe per subject.

(g) The candidate should be allowed to use aids and assistive devices such as prosthetics & orthotics, hearing aid as mentioned in para 2 of the certificate issued by medical authority as per Appendix I.

(h) Compensatory time not less than 20 minutes per hour of the examination should be allowed for persons who are eligible for getting scribe. In case the duration of the examination is less than an hour, then the duration of the compensatory time should be allowed on pro-rata basis. Compensatory time should not be less than 5 minutes and should be in the multiple of 5.

(i) The examination bodies shall modify their application forms to incorporate specific needs of this category of persons. In case, any incident has been reported after filling up the form, the examination bodies shall inform the candidates to obtain medical certificate as per these guidelines for facilitating grant of scribe and/or compensatory time.

(j) As far as possible the examination for such persons may be held at ground floor. The examination centres should be accessible for persons with disabilities.

(k) These guidelines are applicable to written examinations conducted by central recruitment agencies as well as academic institutions. The States/UTs may adopt these guidelines or issue similar guidelines to maintain uniformity.

(l) These guidelines are independent of the Guidelines for conducting written examination for persons with benchmark disabilities issued by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on 29.08.2018.

(m) The examining bodies shall ensure strict vigilance to check misuse of facility of scribe.

4. All the recruitment agencies, Academics/Examination Bodies etc. under the administrative control of each Ministry/Department may be advised appropriately to ensure compliance of implementing these guidelines.

5. The above guidelines are issued with the approval of Hon'ble Minister (Social Justice & Empowerment).

-Sd./-

(Mrityunjay Jha)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Tel. No. 24369045

To

1. Secretary of all Ministries/Departments
2. Secretary, UPSC, Shahjahan road, New Delhi.
3. Chairman, SSC, Block No. 12, CGO Complex, Lodhi road, New Delhi-110003
4. Chairman, University Grants Commission with a request to issue necessary instructions to all universities including Deemed Universities for compliance.
5. Chairman, Railway Board
6. All National Institutes and RCI under administrative control of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of SJ&E, new Delhi

Copy of information to: CCPD, 5th Floor, NISD Building, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delh

Appendix-I

Certificate for person with specified disability covered under the definition of Section 2 (s) of the RPwD Act, 2016 but not covered under the definition of Section 2(r) of the said Act, i.e. persons having less than 40% disability and having difficulty in writing

This is to certify that; we have examined Mr/Ms/Mrs ..... (name of the candidate), S/o /D/o ....., a resident of .....(Vill/PO/PS/District/State), aged ..... yrs, a person with ..... (nature of disability/condition), and to state that he/she has limitation which hampers his/her writing capability owing to his/her above condition. He/she requires support of scribe for writing the examination.

2. The above candidate uses a i d s and assistive device such as prosthetics & orthotics, hearing aid (name to be specified) which is /are essential for the candidate to appear at the examination with the assistance of scribe.

3. This certificate is issued only for the purpose of appearing in written examinations conducted by recruitment agencies as well as academic institutions and is valid upto_____(it is valid for maximum period of six months or less as may be certified by the medical authority)

Signature of medical authority

(Signature & Name)	(Signature & Name)	(Signature & Name)	(Signature & Name)	(Signature & Name)
Orthopedic / PMR specialist	Clinical Psychologist/ Rehabilitation Psychologist/Psychiatrist / Special Educator	Neurologist (if available)	Occupation al l therapist (if available)	Other Expert, as nominated by the Chairperson (if any)
(Signature & Name)				
Chief Medical Officer/Civil Surgeon/Chief District Medical Officer.....Chairperson				

Name of Government Hospital/Health Care Centre with Seal

Place:

Date:

Appendix-II

Letter of Undertaking by the person with specified disability covered under the definition of Section 2 (s) of the RPwD Act, 2016 but not covered under the definition of Section 2(r) of the said Act, i.e. persons having less than 40% disability and having difficulty in writing

I_____, a candidate with _____(nature of disability/condition) appearing for the_____(name of the examination) bearing Roll No. _____ at _____ (name of the Centre) in the District _____,_____(name of the State). My educational qualification is_____.

2. I do hereby state that_____(name of the scribe) will provide the service of scribe for the undersigned for taking the aforementioned examination.

3. I do hereby undertake that his qualification is_____. In case, subsequently it is found that his qualification is not as declared by the undersigned and is beyond my qualification. I shall forfeit my right to the post or certificate/diploma/degree and claims relating thereto.

(Signature of the candidate)

(counter signature by the parent/guardian, if the candidate is minor)

Place:

Date: