GOVERNMENT OF GOA
DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE
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CIRCULAR

Sub:- Access to information and communication technology for Persons with Disabilities.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (Central Act No.49 of 2016) was notified vide notification No.10/4/4/2016-LA-171 dated 04/10/2017 and published in the Official Gazette series I No.32 dated 09th November 2017.

This Act mandates the appropriate Government to create barrier free environment for Persons with Disabilities in physical infrastructure, transport, information and communication technology and other facilities and services.

As regards to point of Access to information and Communication Technology as per section 42 of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, The appropriate Government shall take measures to ensure that;

i) All contents available in audio, print and electronic media are in accessible format

ii) Persons with Disabilities have access to electronic media by providing audio description, sign language interpretation and close captioning.

iii) Electronic goods and equipment which are meant for everyday use are available in universal design.

In this context Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, New Delhi vide letter No. 29-06/2022-DD-III dated 15th July 2022, in which instruction given to Chief Secretary of all the States to ensure availability of sign language interpretation during Meetings/ Seminars/Workshops/Press briefings in order to reach the information to Persons with Disabilities.

It is therefore, enjoined upon all the Government Departments/Autonomous Bodies/Corporation & Commissions to strictly ensure that all the steps mentioned above are envisaged in section 42 of RPwD Act, 2016 are taken in letter and spirit for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the State on "Top Priority" basis and compliance reported to this office immediately.

S Kamat

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

Copy to;

1. O.S.D to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Secretariat Complex, Porvorim-Goa.
2. O.S.D to Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Secretariat Complex, Porvorim-Goa.
3. O.S.D to all Ministers, Secretariat Complex, Porvorim-Goa.
4. The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, C/o Sanjay Centre, Porvorim-Goa.
5. All the Heads of Departments/Autonomous Bodies/ Corporation/Municipalities/Panchayat/Commissions.
6. To all the Aided/Non-Aided Educational Institutions.
7. Office copy.
8. Guard file.