



12 August 2013

To

Thiru. Sivasankaran IAS.,
Secretary to Government,
Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department
Government of Tamil Nadu

Dear Sir,

Sub: Grievances of Low Vision beneficiaries

We, at Nethrodaya serving the visually impaired persons over a decade, do appreciate, the progressive steps taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu in addressing specific needs of different categories of the visually challenged. Yet the implementation may suffer for want of correction as detailed below:

1. In earlier days only completely blind persons (i.e. 100% blindness) were eligible for availing themselves of all the government schemes, namely scribe assistance, concessions and employment reservation for the blind. Hence even people with low vision were also forced to certify themselves as totally blind.
2. After bifurcation of Social welfare department into Department of Welfare of differently-abled persons, a new announcement was made by the government of Tamilnadu stating that disabled with 40 % and above disability are all considered to be eligible for all the benefits of person with disability. This is a unique facility, yet due to historical reasons as stated in para 1 the low vision persons are not able to draw the specific benefits given to low vision persons such as magnifiers and the additional reservations.
3. Though the present government has announced various schemes and benefits for the low vision category, it is not utilized fully.
4. Further, there is a possibility that totally blind person can also regain his vision due to latest medical interventions. Similarly a low vision person may deteriorate at any stage, and become totally blind. But the present system of certification valid for ten years is not conducive to proper utilization of various welfare measures announced by the government, from time to time.
5. A case is thus made out for periodical renewal once in three/five years as considered appropriate. This will also enable gradual effective categorization of the visually impaired thus enabling proper utilization of welfare schemes, as intended by the Government.

Considering the above points brought out for your consideration, we, at Nethrodaya, appeal that this aspect be considered as early as possible so that all categories of visually stand to benefit, ensuring proper ground level implementation of the noble measures announced for the low vision category, specifically magnifier an assistive-device. Since the distribution has already started the corrective measures beg urgency. An instruction to the concerned authorities for immediate re-certification may thus, has to be urgently announced.

Thanking you
For Nethrodaya

C. Govindkrishnan
Founder

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