In the Court of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

National Capital Territory of Delhi

25- D, Mata Sundari Road, Near Guru Nanak Eye Centre, New Delhi-2 Phone-011-23216002-04, Telefax: 011-23216005, Email: comdis.delhi@nic.in

[Vested with powers of Civil Court under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016]

Case No. 4/1039/2015-Wel./CD/625-627

Dated: 3/5/2017

In the matter of:

Dr. Satendra Singh, Coordinator Enabling Unit, University of Delhi, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, New Delhi-110095.

...... Complainant

Versus

The Chief Engineer (Health Maintenance Zone) Public Works Department, GNCT of Delhi, 2nd Floor, MSO Building, I.P Estate, New Delhi-110002.

......Respondent No.1.

The Medical Superintendent, G.T. B. Hospital, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095.

.....Respondent No.2

Date of hearing:

29.05.2017

Present:

None for Complainant and Respondent No. 2.

Sh. Pradeep Sabharwal, Asstt. Engineer (Elect.) & Sh. A.K. Jain,

Asstt. Engineer(Civil) on behalf of respondent No.1.

ORDER

Dr. Satendra Singh, Asstt. Professor of Physiology, UCMS & GTB Hospital, University College of Medical Sciences & Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital (GTBH) who is also a Coordinator, Enabling Unit, EOC & Chairman, Equality and Diversity Committee brought out the following issues vide his complaint dated 1st July, 2015:

- The Conference Hall of GTB Hospital which also has library on first floor and (i) Medical Education Unit on second floor, is inaccessible as there is no lift.
- Canara Bank Branch and Post Office of GTB Hospital are on the first floor, (ii) which are not accessible to persons with disabilities, elderly and pregnant women.
- Toilets in Conference Hall need to be made accessible and some toilets need grab bars and to be made wheel chair user friendly.

Court of Commissioner (Disabilities) National Capital Territory of Delhi Room No. - 1 25-D. Mata Sundari Road, New Delhi-02

- 2. Dr. Satendra Singh, who himself is a person with locomotor disability further submitted that he has written countless letters to various authorities including Health Minister in his capacity as Coordinator of the Disability Unit but nothing has happened.
- 3. The complaint was taken up with the Medical Superintendent, GTB Hospital vide communication dated 22.07.2015 followed by a number of communications. Whereafter, the case was scheduled for hearing on 09.11.2015. Medical Superintendent, GTB Hospital vide letter dated 04.11.2015 informed that the administrative approval and expenditure sanction for providing a lift at the library had been approved on 24.07.2015 and the tender process has been started by the Public Works Department (PWD). The preliminary estimate for one Hydraulic lift for persons with disabilities at Canara Bank and the Post Office has also been sanctioned. The work of renovation of toilets and library block at each floor of Conference Hall are also being made accessible for persons with disabilities including wheel chair users. Work is likely to be completed by the end of 2015. He also informed that the Grab bars have been fixed in the toilets in the college building.
- 4. The complainant vide his email dated 3rd August, 2015 informed that he had not got any update for his cases and requested that the proceedings may be resumed in this case and the other two cases bearing No. 4/967/2015 Dr. Satendra Singh Vs DDCA on inaccessible Kotla Stadium and Case No.4/838/2014 Dr. Satendra Singh Vs IT and Health Deptt. on inaccessible websites of hospital of Delhi. This Court sought the status from the respondent who submitted the following information vide letter dated 26.08.2016:
- (i) The status with regard to installation of the lift was as intimated vide letter dated 04.11.2015.
- (ii) There was a need to shift the Medical Education Unit on the 2nd Floor of Library Block in order to construct the lift.
- 5. The status report dated 06.01.2017 signed of Chief Engineer, HMZ, PWD informed that the work for 'Providing the structure for lift for Barrier free building under scheme for implementation of persons with disabilities Act (SIPDA) for UCMS Library Building and Canara Bank in GTB Hospital, Shahdara, Delhi have been awarded vide No. 54 (807)/BPD B-221(N) 2016-17/753 dated 08.11.2016 (Civil). The work of lift installation for persons with disabilities has been awarded vide No. 54(91)/2015-16/764 dated 14.03.2016 (Electrical) and execution of work is in progress and likely to be installed by 30.10.2017.
- 6. On 29.05.2017, the representatives of Chief Engineer, Health Maintenance Zone(HMZ) informed that the work relating to the installation of the lifts is under progress as scheduled. The Department is taking all steps to complete the work as soon as possible. Rest of the works like renovation of toilets, making them disabled friendly, etc. have already been completed.

Court of Commissioner (Disabilities)
National Capital Territory of Delhi
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- As the complainant has been asking for basic accessibility features in the hospital since 2012, the same should have received a more serious attention of the concerned authorities and the action to make the provisions more expeditiously should have been taken by all concerned. As the Civil work has been completed and only installation of the lifts for which order has already been placed, remains, respondent No. 1 is advised to complete the installation of the lifts within three months from the date of receipt of this order and inform this Court as required under Section 81 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2016.
- 8. Respondent No. 2, i.e. Medical Superintendent, GTB Hospital is advised to conduct an accessibility audit of the hospital and the other facilities in the hospital, residential area, etc. through an Access Audit Team comprising of trained experts, a Civil Engineer / Architect who should submit the access audit report within one month from the date of receipt of this order and take appropriate action to implement the recommendations of access audit team within three months thereafter and submit the report to this Court.

The matter is disposed of accordingly.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 31st day of May,2017.

(T.D. Dhariyar)

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

Court of Commissioner (Disabilities) National Capital Territory of Delhi

Room No. - 1

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