

## **Visually impaired students demand filling up posts reserved for them**

Members of the All Odisha Student Union of the Visually Impaired (SUVI) on Thursday staged demonstration in front of the State Assembly protesting against government departments not adhering to filling up of three per cent posts meant for persons with disabilities.

The State government had failed to provide any meaningful employment to disabled students despite there was provision of 3 per cent reservation for them, said SUVI advisor Sanyas Behera here on Thursday.

“We have received a total of 223 numbers of replies State government departments. After thorough perusal of RTI responses, we found no post meant for persons with disabilities has been filled up in case of 216 government establishments in last three years. In case of rest six establishments contractual appointments have been given to a few visually impaired students,” said Mr. Behera.

SUVI demanded that officials responsible for non-implementation of order of Supreme Court which had directed all government to set aside three per cent of posts for persons with disabilities, out of which one per cent should be specifically reserved for visually challenged candidates.

In a memorandum addressed to Governor S. C. Jamir, the association said, “though education of the visually impaired persons was started in 1960, but no special college and university hostels, exclusive residential facility for visually impaired students, were created in the State. Though 1000 Kasturba Gandhi hostels for the girl students were established by the State government, not a single hostel for the visually impaired girl students was set up.”

The association also expressed concerns over acute shortage of Braille text books and sought Governor’s intervention to mitigate the problem. They also pleaded the State government to conduct of special recruitment drive to fill up vacancies meant for candidates with disabilities.