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State Level Workshop on Capacity Development and Access to Common Public Services to all Leprosy Cured Persons Held

Bhubaneswar, 21.01.2019

Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Odisha organized a two day (on 21st & 22nd January 2019) State level Workshop on "Capacity Development and Access to Common Public Services to All Leprosy Cured Persons" at Red Cross Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. This workshop was inaugurated by Sri Niten Chandra, Principal Secretary, SSEPD Department, on 21st January 2019. Nearly 100 leprosy cured persons across Odisha attended the workshop.

Principal Secretary Sri Chandra said , “This is the first time ever that a workshop like this has been organized by Government of Odisha for Leprosy Cured Persons. There should be no discrimination on the ground of leprosy and disability. So everyone has a responsibility towards eradicating stigma around leprosy. There is a need to build partnership with all stakeholders for policy development and making strategy for inclusion of Leprosy Cured Persons.” Later on several panel discussions were held to create awareness among leprosy cured persons.

The guests on the dais also informed the participants about Leprosy Awareness Campaign and Leprosy Detection Campaign which will be launched by Government of Odisha from 30th January and 15th February respectively. Department of Health and family Welfare looks after the preventive and curative aspect of leprosy whereas Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities works towards the socio-economic rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons. A health camp was also organized for the leprosy cured persons on the first day of the workshop.

Other dignitaries like Sri Susanta Mohapatra, Director, SSEPD Department, Dr. Shakti Prasad Padhi, Additional Director, Dr. S.P. Sahu, Joint Director- Leprosy, Directorate of Health, Leprosy, Government of Odisha, Ms. Madhumita Nayak, Joint Secretary, SSEPD Department, Mr. Jadumani Mahala, Deputy Secretary, SSEPD Department, Sri Sanyasi Kumar Behera, DSSO, Headquarter, Dr. S.N. Pati, Lepra Society Consultant to Government of India addressed the gathering. Among others District Leprosy Officers, District Social Security Officers were present and made the workshop successful.

Basanta Kumar Mohanty
Information Officer