

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2665
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2022

WELFARE OF DIVYANG

2665. SHRIMATI NUSRAT JAHAN RUHI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the disability sector still remains one of the most marginalized and neglected groups in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of allocation of funds under the Accessible India Campaign for the Divyang groups and proposal to increase their pension;
- (c) the reasons to cut down allocation for central projects like Scheme for Support for Marginalized Individual for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE), Scheme for Economic Empowerment of De-Notified Tribes (SEED), PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers thereof; and
- (d) the proposal of the Government to meet the needs of Divyang and free universal health care thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a) The Government enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, which came into force on 19.04.2017. The Act provides various rights and entitlements for persons with disabilities (PwDs) which, inter-alia, include equality, non-discrimination, protection against exploitation and inhuman treatment, legal capacity, access to justice, accessibility in voting, community life, protection during disaster situations. It also provides mechanism for monitoring implementation of its provisions through State Commissioner for PwDs and Chief Commissioner for PwDs.

(b) Accessible India Campaign (AIC) is a component under the Central Sector Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA). Under AIC component, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) has so far released an amount of Rs.596 crore.

Ministry of Rural Development has informed that the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension

Scheme (IGNDPS) is a component of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a 100% centrally funded centrally sponsored scheme. Under IGNDPS, central assistance @Rs. 300/- per month per beneficiary is provided to persons aged 18-79 years with multiple or severe disability (disability level 80% or more) belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. The amount of central assistance is increased to Rs. 500/- per month in respect of these beneficiaries on reaching the age of 80 years. The States/UTs are encouraged to provide top-ups over and above the central assistance under the NSAP.

(c) The Ministry launched the scheme namely Support for Marginalized Individual for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) on 12.02.2022 which consists of two sub-schemes namely 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons' and 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'. The Budget Estimate (BE) for Scheme for Economic Empowerment of De-Notified Tribes (SEED) for F.Y 2021-22 was Rs. 45 crore but the scheme was launched in February, 2022 resulting into no expenditure during 2021-22. Therefore, BE for the SEED for 2022-23 was reduced to Rs. 28.00 crore.

The B.E. and actual expenditure for PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) and Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) for the year 2021-22 and BE for 2022-23 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Scheme	B.E 2021-22	Actual release	BE 2022-23
PM-DAKSH	100	68.23	84
SRMS	100	39.00	70

PM-DAKSH and Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) are demand driven and accordingly keeping in view the trend of expenditure in 2021-22, the allocation for 2022-23 has been rationalized.

(d) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, mandates the appropriate Government and local authorities to take necessary measures for persons with disabilities (PwDs) to provide free health care in the vicinity especially in the rural areas for lower income group families. "Public Health & Hospitals" being a State Subject, the primary responsibility of provision of health services to all including persons with disabilities is that of respective State Govt./UT Administration. However, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005 to supplement the efforts of the State Governments/UT Administrations to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all especially to vulnerable people including persons with disabilities. Currently, NRHM is a sub-mission of National Health Mission (NHM). The support under NHM, *inter-alia*, includes provision of a host of free services such as maternal health, child health, adolescent health, family planning, universal immunisation programme and for major diseases such as Tuberculosis, HIV/ AIDS, vector borne diseases such as Malaria, Dengue and Kala Azar, Leprosy etc.
