

(a) the number of disabled in the country, category-wise;

(b) whether some provisions of the Persons with Disability Act, 1995 are yet to be implemented;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which all the provisions made in the Act are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) As per the survey carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1991, the estimated number of persons with locomotor, hearing, speech and visual disabilities was of the order of 16.15 million in the country constituting about 1.9% of the total population. Category-wise distribution was as follows:

	(in lakh)
1. Locomotor	89.39
2. Visual Impairment	40.05
3. Hearing disability (Five years & above)	32.42
4. Speech Impairment (Five years & above)	19.66
5. Multiple Disabilities	19.98

As regards mental retardation in Sample Survey conducted by NSSO in 1990-91 for persons in age group upto 14 years, it was estimated that about 3% suffer from delayed mental development.

(b) and (d) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has come into force w.e.f. 7.2.1996. The implementation of the provisions of the Act is a continuous process involving multi-sectoral approach by the Central Ministries, State Governments and local authorities and as such no time limit can be set for this purpose.

[Translation]

Child Labour

1543. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that due to poverty the parents are forced to send their children to work as labourer;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide monthly financial assistance to the parents of child labourers;

(c) if so, the monthly assistance is likely to be provided; and

(d) the total amount likely to be spent on the scheme every year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) Child Labour is a socio-economic problem. Government has initiated a massive multi pronged strategy to address the problem. A National policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987 which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of services for the benefit of parents of child labour in order to improve their economic conditions and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. So far, 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned in the child labour endemic States for coverage of 1.5 lakh children. A major activity undertaken under the project is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care and stipend of Rs. 100/- per child per month to compensate the loss of caring. Parents of child labour in project area expected to be covered on priority, under the existing poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes with a view to raising their economic status so that they are able to send their children to schools instead of work.

Expenditure for the child labour schemes taken together for the year 1997-98 was Rs. 1317.76 crores. Yearly allocations for the schemes are as approved by Government from time to time.

Allotment of Naptha

1544. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Naptha in the country during the last three years;

(b) the quantity and the rate at which Naptha was allotted to Reliance during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the details of sub-agencies to whom it has been sold/allotted by Reliance during the said period and the rate thereof; and