

2. Scheduled Castes Development Corporation

Year	Loan disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)	Persons benefitted
1995-96	54202.30	396930
1996-97	(Figures will be available only during 1997-98)	

(c) Yes, Sir.

[English]

Schemes for Aged Persons

772. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes and programmes to be launched by the Government on the World Elders Day;

(b) whether any habitation and travel facilities are proposed to be provided to the destitute aged persons; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to provide these facilities to the destitute aged women?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employment to Disabled Unemployed Youth

773. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of unemployed youth among the disabled and non-disabled;

(b) the steps being taken to absorb the disabled persons in the gainful employment;

(c) whether remuneration paid to the disabled are less than that or paid to their counterparts in the non-disabled category;

(d) if so, the measures taken to rectify the imbalance;

(e) whether there is any proposal for providing special benefits, privileges or concessions to the relatives of the disabled; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) According to the information furnished by Directorate General of Employment and Training, out of 3,66,91,500 persons in the Live Register of Employment Exchanges 32,91,700 have been placed under employment upto 31.12.94. The corresponding

figures for the disabled persons are 3,40,304 and 52,859 respectively. The respective percentages of unemployment among the disabled and non-disabled are 84.47 and 91.03.

(b) Statement - I showing the steps being taken to absorb disabled persons in the gainful employment is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). No information is available. However, there is no provision of fixing different rates for disabled persons under Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(e) and (f). Statement - II containing brief write-up on such concessions by the Central Government is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT - I

- (i) In terms of Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, every appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than three per cent for persons or class of persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from - (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment; (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, in the posts identified for each disability. Even before the Act came into force, 3 per cent vacancies have been reserved for physically handicapped, 1 per cent each for the physical, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in Group C and D posts in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings. Similar reservations have been given by some State Govts. Apart from this, age concession and relaxation in medical standards are also available to handicapped candidates.
- (ii) 41 Special Employment Exchanges and 47 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchange also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.
- (iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.
- (iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following :
 - (a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and petty shops;
 - (b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under differential Rate of Interest Scheme;

- (c) Allotment of public telephone booths;
- (d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

STATEMENT - II

Concessions to the relatives/escorts of the handicapped

1. *Travel concessions :*

Travel by Rail : Escorts accompanying the blind/orthopaedically and mentally handicapped persons are eligible for 75% concession in the basic fare. This is in addition to the concession for the disabled persons.

2. *Educational Allowance :* Reimbursement of tuition fees in respect of physically handicapped and mentally retarded children of the Central Govt. employees has been enhanced to Rs. 50/-.

3. *Income Tax Exemption :*

Deduction in respect of medical treatment of handicapped dependants

An assessee who has incurred any expenditure for medical treatment (including nursing), of any handicapped dependant suffering from permanent disability (including blindness/mental retardation) having the effect of reducing his capacity for normal work, is eligible for deduction of Rs. 20,000/- from his income.

Alternatives to Prison Sentences

774. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether conference of the Chief Ministers held at New Delhi on November 13, 1992 had recommended to explore the alternatives to prison sentences;

(b) if so, whether the Government had since then explored alternatives to prison sentences.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Government has been advising the State Governments on improving various facets of Jail Administration including that of exploring alternatives to imprisonment. The Government is also interacting with the Law Commission on a proposal to amend section 53 of the IPC to provide for various alternatives to imprisonment such as community service.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Horticulture Fisheries etc.

775. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes implemented in the fields of horticulture, fruits, plantation, fishery etc in Gujarat State particularly in the tribal dominated areas during the last three years till date;

(b) the funds made available by the Government for these schemes during the said period, separately;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research or any such research institutes has evolved any new technique for these areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to make the people aware about the same and to encourage them to undertake schemes in the said fields?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A statement indicating the name of schemes and amount provided to the Government of Gujarat during the last three years is attached.

(c) and (d). Technologies have been developed/evolved for production of fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants, etc. High-yielding selections in datepalm and banana have been made for further multiplication and distribution to farmers to improve productivity and quality. Improved varieties of fruits like ber, pomegranate, datepalm, aonla etc. have been introduced and popularised. Technology for raising fruit plantations on drylands under semi-arid conditions of Gujarat have been evolved and demonstrated by the Central Horticulture Experiment station at Godhra alongwith techniques to develop degraded land through hortipast-oral systems suitable for these soils. A large number of improved varieties of medicinal plants have been evolved along with package of practices suitable to Gujarat.

2. Use of drip irrigation for horticultural crops has been standardised for banana, lime, mango, etc and a few vegetable crops. Similarly, technology for the use of greenhouses for production of off-season vegetables has also been developed.

3. Under the fisheries sector, the following activities have been undertaken :

(i) Conducted detailed studies on various reservoirs on Narmada and formulated strategies for management of fisheries conservation of changing eco-system of the river.

(ii) Developed pre-processing procedures and frozen storage characteristics for import varieties of fishes of Saurashtra Coast to