

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2283

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003

REHABILITATION SCHEMES FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

**Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of handicapped persons at present in Karnataka and Maharashtra and the details of the rehabilitation schemes initiated by the Government;
- (b) the funds allocated for these schemes during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide special assistance to ease the hardships faced by the handicapped in daily walks of life?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) to (c) Based on the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation(NSSO) in 1991, approximately 8.76 lakh and 18.19 lakh persons in Karnataka and Maharashtra, respectively are estimated to be suffering from some kind of physical or sensory disability. There are six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions setup in each major area of disability which work inter-alia towards manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide rehabilitation services, undertake functional research etc. The artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India(ALIMCO), a public sector undertaking under the aegis of this Ministry manufactures and promotes availability, supply and distribution of quality aids and appliance for persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation(NHFDC), set up in 1997, provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities on soft terms for self-employment and income generating activities. Schemes are also under implementation for providing support to non-government organizations working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The Government has also taken initiatives for improving outreach with a view to ensuring wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Over hundred districts have been identified for setting up District Centers with the objective of providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. Schemes are also under implementation for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has become functional. A total amount of Rs. 2374.59 lakh and Rs.1504.66 lakh has been released to Karnataka and Maharashtra respectively in the last three years for this sector.