

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2448
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
CUSTOM DUTIES ON AIDS AND APPLIANCES FOR THE DISABLED
M. JAGANNATH

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

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in regard to charging of custom duties on aids and appliances for the disabled;
- (b) whether any committee was constituted recently to review the concessions/exemptions of customs/excise duties on aids and appliances for persons with disabilities;
- (c) whether the committee has submitted its report, the recommendations made by the committee; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee has submitted its report in January, 2003. The said Committee has inter alia recommended to exempt aids and appliances meant for persons with disabilities from the purview of customs and excise duties. In regard to existing exemptions/concessions, the Committee has recommended periodical review and has suggested certain changes in procedures and conditions for availing these concessions.

(d) The Union budget 2003-2004 proposals include reduction in customs duties on hearing aids, crutches, wheelchairs, walking frames, tri-cycles, brailers and artificial limbs to 5 per cent without Special Additional Duty (SAD). They will be exempt from CVD and the domestic manufacturers will also be exempt from excise duty. It is also proposed to reduce the customs duty on parts of hearing aids and wheel chairs to 5 per cent without CVD and SAD.