

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1897  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2002  
BENEFITS TO DISABLED  
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

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

(a) the steps taken to extend the benefits of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities and Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 by way of identifying the persons eligible for such benefits and setting up the authorities within their reach for such identification and regulation; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in the process indicating the progress so far made in giving effect to this Act?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) In order to ascertain the population of persons with disabilities, data on disability was collected through Census 2001 and is under compilation. The National Sample Survey Organisation is conducting a survey on disability in the 58th round during the period July-December, 2002. Besides, some States have also carried out complete survey, district-wise, to identify persons with disabilities. A special drive for setting up Medical Boards in States/Union Territories has also been launched for issue of disability certificates. Medical Boards have been set up in 398 districts in 22 States/Union territories for issue of certificate of disability.

The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been appointed to safeguard rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities and also to look into complaints with respect of deprivation of such rights. Also, all States have set up similar authorities in the States.

(b) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 enforced since February, 1996, provides for affirmative action and protective provisions aimed at social, educational and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. This requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all Ministries of the Union Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities. Action to implement various provisions of the Act has been initiated in right earnest since its adoption. Existing institutions have been strengthened. New institutions/organizations have been set up and the outlay for the disability sector have been increased substantially since 1995-96.