

be determined on considerations of viability and tie up of the funding arrangements.

[English]

Irregularities in Nehru Memorial Museum

3147. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SC/ST Commission has received any representation regarding irregularities in the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a representation of Senior Technical Assistant of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library was received in the National Commission for SCs/STs regarding chargesheet issued to him on his misbehaviour and stopping his promotion. The representation is being examined by the Department of Culture. The Senior Technical Assistant has not been deprived of his promotion.

[Translation]

Relaxations to Handicapped Persons

3148. SHRI VISHVESHVAR BHAGAT :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
DR. ARVIND SHARMA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of handicapped persons in the country State-wise;

(b) whether some relaxations in the qualifications have been provided to the handicapped persons in the country and the criteria fixed for Central and the State Governments services;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have considered or proposed to consider to provide pension/assistance to the totally disabled persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) As per the latest Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, about 16.15 million persons in the country are suffering from visual, hearing, speech and locomotor

disabilities. Another Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991 for persons with Delayed Mental Development between 1-14 age group estimates that about 3% of the total population has delayed mental development.

(b) and (c) There is no relaxation in educational qualifications for physically handicapped for appointment in Services under the Central and State Government as per the available information.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has no proposal to launch a pension scheme for the disabled at present. A large number of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have their own pension schemes for the disabled.

Assistance being given to the disabled persons under various schemes is indicated in the Statement attached.

Statement

(1) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled

Under this scheme, assistance is provided to voluntary organisations to run rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. Financial support is given upto 90% of the total project cost for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistance is given for projects like vocational training centre, special schools, counselling centres, hostels, training centres for personnels, placement services etc.

(2) Establishment & Development of Special Schools

The scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs upto 90% for establishment and upgradation of Special Schools in four major disabilities— orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there are no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

(3) Assistance to Organisations for persons with Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation for Manpower Development

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100% for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation.