

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:149
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2009
EMPOWERMENT OF THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS
Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

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

- (a) whether the State Commissioners under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995 have been appointed in all the States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of complaints received by the Commissioners in the States during each of the last three years and the total number of complaints disposed of to help the beneficiaries during the said period, State-wise;
- (d) the broad nature of the complaints received; and
- (e) the steps being taken to ensure effective empowerment of the physically challenged persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MEIRA KUMAR)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 149 ASKED BY SHIR ARJUN SETHI FOR ANSWER ON 26.2.2009 REGARDING 'EMPOWERMENT OF THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS'

(a) & (b) Full time State Commissioners have been appointed by 16 States, while 19 States/ Union Territories have given additional charge of Commissioner to officers substantively holding other posts. State/Union Territory wise details are given in Annex I.

(c) & (d) Under Section 65 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995, Annual Reports of State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities are laid by concerned State Governments in State legislatures. Work of these Commissioners is not monitored by the Central Government.

(e) The following steps have been taken towards effective empowerment of persons with disabilities:

(i) Enactment of three legislations, viz.

(a) Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992

(b) Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995

(c) National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act, 1999

(ii) Adoption of a National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, in February, 2006

(iii) Implementation of the following Central Sector Schemes

a. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme- Under which NGOs are given assistance for providing a wide range rehabilitation services to children and persons with disability

b. Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)- under which assistive aids and appliances are provided to needy persons with disability and corrective surgeries are carried out free of charge or at concessional rates.

c. Scheme for Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act- under which a range of projects implemented by various agencies for research and development, creation of a barrier free environment, etc. are supported.

d. Scheme of Providing Incentives to employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities (introduced from 1.4.2008)-under which payment of the employer's EPF and ESI contribution for the first three years, for each person

with disability employed in a private sector establishment with a monthly wage of upto Rs. 25,000, is borne by the Central Government.

e. Provision of loans at concessional rates to persons with disability for self employment, by the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, and

f. Vocational training through 20 Vocaitonal Rehabilitaiton Centres run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.