

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4888  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

- (a) the approximate number of people with mental or physical disability in the country;
- (b) whether the number is likely to be much higher if persons whose disabilities are not visible such as those with one lung or a defective heart are also included;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take preventive steps to bring down the number of persons with disabilities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON)

- (a) As per Census 2001, there are 2.19 Crore persons with disabilities, out of which 22.63 lakhs are persons with mental disability.
- (b) and (c) As per Section 2 (i) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, "disability" means (i) blindness, (ii) low vision, (iii) leprosy-cured, (iv) hearing impairment, (v) locomotor disability, (vi) mental retardation (vii) mental illness. As per Section 2 (t) of the Act "person with disability" means a person suffering from not less than forty percent of any disability as certified by a medical authority.
- (d) & (e) National Policy for persons with disabilities envisages measures for early detection and intervention, counseling and medical interventions. Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme supports inter alia programmes for early intervention. Assistance is provided to NGOs for projects under the scheme.