

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3671
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010
NATIONAL HANDICAPPED FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Mahato Shri Narahari

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

- (a) the role of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) regarding the grant of education loan to the handicapped students pursuing higher studies;
- (b) the number of handicapped students who availed education loan during the last three years;
- (c) whether NHFDC directly bears the responsibility or recommends the loan applications received from the handicapped students to the Nationalised Banks and the State Co-operative Banks; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides education loan at concessional interest rates to handicapped students (fulfilling eligibility criteria to avail loan) to pursue higher studies in India upto Rs. 7.50 lakh and abroad upto NRs. 15 lakh.

The interest rates are:

- (i) Upto Rs. 50,000/- -5% p.a.
- (ii) Above Rs. 50,000/- -6% p.a.
and upto Rs. 5 lakh
- (iii) Above Rs. 5 lakh -8% p.a.

Also, a rebate of 1% on interest is given to women beneficiaries.

(b) 14 Handicapped students have availed education loans from NHFDC from 2007-2008 to 2009-10.

(c)&(d) NHFDC functions as an apex corporation and channelises its funds through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

The proposal for education loans above Rs. 1.50 lakh received from SCAs are sanctioned at NHFDC level and the proposals upto Rs. 1.50 lakh are sanctioned by the SCA under delegated authority.