

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:338

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010

REHABILITATION OF PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has provided/proposes to provide free education, training and hostel facility to the physically challenged and mentally retarded including deaf and dumb children/persons through various schemes run by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Centre-wise, category-wise and State-wise alongwith the funds sanctioned, released and incurred by the Government for the purpose during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to map such children/persons and provide free higher education/ training and shelters to the said people;
- (d) whether the Government has chalked out any strategy to rehabilitate such physically challenged and mentally retarded children/persons; a,nd
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement to be laid on the table of the House in answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.338 for 19.04.2010 by Shrijmati Bhavana Gawali Patil and Shri Hansraj G. Ahir, Member of Parliament regarding Rehabilitation of Physically Challenged Persens.

(a) and (b) The following Schemes of the Government aim to provide free education, training and hostel facility to the physically challenged and mentally retarded including deaf and dumb children/persons:

(i) Assistance is provided under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), for rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for projects like Special Schools for disabled, Vocational Training Centres, Pre-School & Early Intervention Centres, Project for Cerebral Palsied Children etc. The details of the funds released State-wise by the Government under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme during Eleventh Five Year Plan are at Annexure-I.

(ii) The scheme of Sarv Shiksha Abhiayan (SSA) aims to ensure that every child with special needs, irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided elementary education. SSA provides upto Rs.1200/- per child per year for the inclusive education of children with disabilities, in addition to other assistance which is meant for all children. 7.18 lakh elementary schools have been made barrier-free. State-wise details of number of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) identified and covered under SSA are at Annexure-II.

(iii) Erstwhile Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children (IEDC) aimed to provide educational opportunities to children with mild to moderate disability, in common schools and facilitate their retention in the school system. Assistance for all items specified in the scheme was on 100% basis and available upto the senior secondary stage. The components included educational aids, assistive equipment, salaries for special teachers and facilities for children with disability like hostel facility etc.

The Scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) has been launched from the year 2009-10, in place of IEDC. Under IEDSS, assistance is provided for the inclusive education of children with disabilities in classes IX-XII. The components of the scheme include: 1) assessment of medical/ educational needs, 2) provision of student specific facilities, 3) development of learning material, 4) support services iike special educators, 5) construction and equipping of resource rooms, 6) training of general school teachers to build their capacity to fulfill the needs of children with special needs, and 7) making schools barrier free. Setting up of Model Inclusive Schools in every State is also envisaged. The details of the funds released State-wise by the Government under IEDC and IEDSS during Eleventh Five Year Plan are at Anneyure-III.

(iv) 20 Vocational Rehabilitation Centers {VRCs} are being run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to provide skill training to persons with disabilities. State-wise list of VRCs is enclosed at Annexure-IV

(c) Persons with disabilities are expected to avail the facilities for education, training etc. available in their vicinity.

(d) to (e) National Policy for Persons with Disabilities indicates the strategy of the Government for rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities which inter alia includes Prevention, Early Detection and Intervention, Human Resource Development, Education and employment of Persons with Disabilities, creation of barrier free environment and steps to provide adequate social security and equal opportunities for sports, recreation and cultural activities.

For the physical and economic empowerment/rehabilitation of children/persons with disabilities, the following steps have been taken in 2009-10:-

(1) Under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, Rs. 61.56 crores has been released to 445 NGOs for a total of 546 projects in various states across the country. The State-wise details of the projects sanctioned are at Annexure-V.

(2) Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances where the main objective is to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated, modern, standard aid and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation and enhance their economic potential, Rs. 21.85 crores has been released for camp activity, The State -wise details of the releases are at Annexure-VI.

(3) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD) promotes economic empowerment and self-employment ventures of the persons with disabilities, extends loan facilities to persons with disabilities for upgradation of their entrepreneurial skills and for pursuing professional/technical education leading to vocational rehabilitation/self employment. During the year 2009-10, Rs.3079.59 lakhs has been released to various States/Union Territories. The State-wise details are at Annexure-VII

The budgetary outlay for the disability sector has been increased from Rs. 260 crores last year to Rs.450 crores for the year 2010-11.