

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1006

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

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

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of differently abled persons in the country;
- (b) is so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has started any welfare schemes and rehabilitation programme for differently abled persons;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the funds sanctioned, released and incurred by the Government for the purpose during the Eleventh Five year Plan;
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government, if any, to enhance the physical, social and psychological rehabilitation of the differently abled persons;
- (f) the details regarding mechanism with the Ministry to ensure proper utilization of funds and effective implementation of the schemes for the beneficiaries; and
- (g) the steps being taken to ensure public places such as cinema halls, ATMs, clinics, public dealing officers etc. are made disabled friendly?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRI D. NAPOLEON)

(a) & (b): Data on persons with disabilities are available from two sources: - (i) Census, 2001, and (ii) National Sample Survey, 58th Round, conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2002. Total number of persons with disabilities in the Country as per these two sources is 2.19 Crore and 1.84 Crore respectively.

State-wise population of persons with disabilities as per Census, 2001, is given in Annex. - I. However, NSSO, 2002, gives only State-wise number of persons with disabilities per lakh population. This information is given in Annex.-II.

(c) & (d) : The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment gives grant to Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) for the empowerment of persons with disabilities under following scheme as per the details given:

(i) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP):- Under the scheme, grant is sanctioned to the implementing agencies for distribution of aids/ appliances to the needy disabled persons to promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. Funds released to the implementing agencies for the year 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 during the Eleven Five year Plan is enclosed at Annex.-III.

(ii) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):- Under the Scheme, funds for the Welfare of Persons with Disability are provided to the NGOs for projects like Special Schools, Vocational Training Centres, Project for Cerebral Palsied Children, Pre-School and Early Intervention and Training, half way homes for psycho-social rehabilitation of treated and controlled mentally ill persons etc. The details of the fund released to NGOs under the Scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan is at Annexure-IV.

(iii) Scheme of Incentives to the Private Sector for Employment of Physically Challenged Persons: The scheme has been launched, w.e.f. 01.04.2008. Under this Scheme, the Government of India provides the employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for physically challenged employees employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs.25,000.

(e) to (g):

(i) The grants are released after receipt of inspection report of the recommending authorities, utilization certificates by the implementing agencies, test check report of covered beneficiaries, audited statement of accounts etc.

(ii) Steps being taken by the Central Government for the physical, social and psychological rehabilitation of persons with disabilities,

inter alia, include: -

(i) The Ministry provides grants-in-aid to State Governments/ UTs, Universities, Non-Governmental Organizations etc. for creation of barrier free environment, providing assistive devices, special education, vocational training, pre-school and early intervention programmes, etc. under various schemes.

(ii) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan aims at universal inclusive education upto class VIII of children with disabilities. A new scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary State (IEDSS) has been introduced in 2009-10 for students with disabilities studying in Class IX-XII with the aim to enable them to pursue secondary schooling in an inclusive environment.

(iii) The Ministry supports seven autonomous National Institutes which provide rehabilitation services, carry out research & development work, and undertake manpower development in regard to various types of disabilities.

(iv) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides concessional credit for income generating activities for self-employment.

(v) 20 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) have been established in 19 States by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to provide vocational training to persons with disabilities.

(vi) The Ministry has established six Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) at Srinagar, Sundernagar, Bhopal, Lucknow, Guwhati and Patna for providing rehabilitation services to persons with various types of disabilities. It is proposed to establish two more CRCs this year.

(vii) In addition to 199 approved District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, the Ministry proposes to establish 50 new District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) this year.

(viii) An Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre is also proposed to be established this year.

(ix) Delhi Division of Ministry of Urban Development had amended building Bye laws to ensure that the public buildings which were erected in Delhi provided barrier free environment to persons with disabilities. These building Bye laws has been circulated to all the States and Union Territories for incorporation on the municipal building Bye laws. So far, 22 States have been informed that they have modified their building Bye laws.