

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1821

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

STATUS OF PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS

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

- (a) whether free education, training and hostel facility has been provided/proposed to be provided to physically handicapped and mentally challenged persons alongwith deaf and dumb children/persons through various schemes being run by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Centre-wise, Category-wise and State-wise and the amount sanctioned, released and spent by the Government for this purpose during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide free higher education training and shelter after identifying such children/persons;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated strategy to rehabilitate such physically handicapped and mentally challenged children/persons; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The schemes/provisions for providing education, training and other facilities to the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) include:-

(i) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS); Under the scheme, funds for the welfare of persons with disabilities are provided to the non-governmental organizations for projects like special schools for disabled, Vocational Training Centres, Half Way Homes, Community Based Rehabilitation Centres, Early Intervention Centres for Disabled and Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons etc.

The state-wise details of funds released under DDRS during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the projects of Physically Handicapped, Deaf and Dumb and Mentally Retarded are at Annexure-I, II & III respectively.

(ii) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC): NHFDC provides grant for entrepreneurial and skill development (EDP) training to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). 100% of the total recurring cost of the training programme is provided by NHFDC to the training Institutes/Organizations.

Statement with regard to EDPs sanctioned and disbursement of loan for education of PwDs is enclosed at Annexure-IV & V respectively.

(iii) "The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act), provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years and has come into force from 1st April, 2010.

(iv) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme ensures that every child in the age group of 6-14 years with special needs, irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided meaningful and quality education.

Since the differently abled children require typical support in the form of special equipment and specialized teaching techniques in their educational process, to address these needs, SSA provides Rs. 3000/- per child per annum.

The physically and mentally challenged children are covered through school readiness programmes and home based programmes. Through these programmes, children with special needs and their parents are imparted training on the care and management of these children.

(v) Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS): The Scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) was launched in 2009-10 replacing the earlier scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC). The Scheme covers all children studying at secondary and higher secondary stage (classes IX-XII) in Government, local body and Government-aided schools, with one or more disabilities as defined under the Persons with Disabilities Act (1995) and the National Trust Act (1999), namely, i) Blindness, ii) Low vision, iii) Leprosy cured, iv) Hearing impairment, v) Locomotor disabilities, vi) Mental retardation, vii) Mental Illness, viii) Autism, and ix) Cerebral Palsy.

100% central assistance is provided for the two major components covered under the scheme. viz:

Student-oriented components include medical and educational assessment, books and stationery, uniforms, transport allowance, reader allowance, stipend for girls @Rs.200 per month, support services, assistive devices, boarding and lodging facility, therapeutic services, teaching learning materials, etc. Rs.3000/- per child per annum is provided as Central assistance to be topped by the States by a scholarship of Rs.600/- per disabled child per annum.

Other components include appointment of special education teachers, allowances for general teachers for teaching such children, teacher training, orientation of school administrators, establishment of resource room, providing barrier free environment, etc.

The State/UT wise releases and utilization under IEDC/IEDSS during the XI Plan are at Annexure-VI & VII respectively.

(vi) Integrated Child Protection Scheme [ICPS] is Centrally Sponsored Scheme: for the welfare and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection as well children in conflict with law. The scheme provides financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for setting up and maintenance of Homes for children either by themselves or in association with voluntary organizations for children in difficult circumstances. The scheme provides an additional component to Homes having children with special needs and provides flexibility to the State Government to either integrate the programme for such children in its existing institutions or support setting up of specialized homes for such children. The primary focus however is on integrating services for children with special needs in existing Homes.

(c) The steps taken by the Govt. include:

1. Higher Education for persons with Special Needs (HEPSN): In the higher education sector, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is supporting universities and colleges in the country to involve in special education activities to empower differently-able persons. The UGC had started the scheme of assistance to universities/colleges for Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (Differently-able Persons) (HEPSN) during the Ninth Five Year Plan, which continued in the Tenth Plan. HEPSN scheme has three components:

(i) Establishment of enabling units for differently-able persons,

(ii) Providing access to differently-able persons,

(iii) Providing special equipments to augment educational services for differently-able persons.

2. Tuition Fee Waiver Scheme for Physically Handicapped Meritorious Students is applicable to students of all AICTE approved Technical institution.

3. Integrated scheme for differently-able persons: Teachers Preparation in Special Education (TEPSE) Scheme.

4. Relaxation provided by the UGC to Persons with Disabilities in the NET Examination.

5. Skill Development: Up-gradation of existing polytechnics to integrate the physically challenged persons.

(d)&(e):The following other schemes are being implemented by the Government for the welfare of persons with disabilities:-

(i) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP):- Under the scheme, aids/appliances are distributed to the needy persons with disabilities.

i. National Institutions (NIs):- The Ministry supports seven autonomous National Institutes which provide rehabilitation services with the overall objective of providing rehabilitation services for different types of disabilities.

ii. The National Handicapped Finance and development Corporation (NHFDC) provides concessional credit to persons with disabilities for setting up income generating activities for self employment.

iii. Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (SIPDA):- Under this scheme, assistance is provided to the State Governments, Institutions, Organizations under Central or State Governments for various activities relating to implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 particularly for creating barrier free environment, supporting District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, Composite Regional Centres etc.

i. Scheme of Incentives to Employers in the Private Sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities:- Under this Scheme, launched in April, 2008, the Government of India reimburse the employers' contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for initial three years in respect of persons with disabilities employed in the private sectors on or after 1.4.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs.25,000/-.

All the above schemes are Central Sector Schemes, hence funds are not allocated state-wise.