

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5181
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011
INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

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

- (a) the number of mentally challenged, autistic, mentally retarded/ handicapped persons and spastics persons including children in the country;
- (b) the total number of education and welfare institutions exclusively meant for mentally challenged and other persons in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain actual number of such challenged persons in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) As per census 2001, there are 22 lakh mentally retarded persons in the country. No census data is available at present for other categories of persons like autistic & spastic persons.

(b) The National Trust which has been set up under National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999, is an autonomous organization under the Ministry, has around 980 registered organizations working for the welfare of mentally challenged and other persons in the country. In addition, National Institute of Mentally Handicapped (NIMH) set up under the Ministry at Secundrabad undertakes rehabilitation, research and manpower development for mentally retarded persons. The National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD) at Chennai undertakes total rehabilitation and manpower development for persons with mental retardation and other disabilities.

Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, projects for mentally retarded such as special schools, vocational training centers, pre-school and early intervention, halfway homes etc. run by non-governmental organizations, are supported through provision of grants-in-aid. 249 projects were supported by the Government under the scheme in 2010-11.

(c) & (d) Government has not conducted any such study so far.