

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:29
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011
REHABILITATION OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

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

- (a) whether the Government has ever made any survey regarding the number of autistic children in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of rehabilitation/welfare schemes being implemented by the Government for autistic children at present;
- (d) whether the Government is implementing and/or funding research/ rehabilitation/ welfare centres/NGOs for autistic children in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, whether the Government proposes to fund (fully or partially) the above-mentioned activities/NGOs; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Madam.

(c) to (e) National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment set up under the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act (Act 44 of 1999), 1999. It has been implementing various rehabilitation/welfare schemes, which takes care of autistic children also. The details thereof are at Annexure.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in part (c) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.29 for 01.08.2011

1. Aspiration- Day Care Centre Scheme (Early Intervention Programme)

The Scheme has been conceived for children with 'Developmental Disability' upto 6 years of age with the aim of working with these children and their parents to make them ready for schooling. At present, there are 79 centres across the country.

2. Samarth - Residential Care Scheme

The main objective of the scheme is to provide safety net to families in crisis. It provides both short term and long term stay facilities for adults and destitute children. There are 119 such Centres in the country with a maximum of 30 beneficiaries (24 residential and remaining 6 for day care only). Vocational training is also provided under the scheme. There are so far 3362 beneficiaries, including 1988 of difficult categories like autism, cerebral palsy or severe mental disability,

3. Niramaya - Health Insurance Scheme

This Scheme for persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities was launched in 2007 for two years in 10 selected districts of 10 States, but was extended to the entire country (except J&K). It provides for health insurance coverage of Rs. 1.0 lakh to such persons irrespective of age. Further, there is no exclusion of pre-existing medical conditions & no pre-insurance medical test. Cashless treatment is provided in case of empanelled hospitals and on reimbursement basis in others anywhere in the country. Presently, the scheme is totally free to BPL beneficiaries and is available at a nominal premium of Rs. 250/- p.a, for family income up to Rs. 15000 per month and Rs. 500/- p.a. for higher family income. So far 96,415 beneficiaries have been enrolled under the Scheme across the country and the total claim settled so far to the beneficiaries is Rs. 2.83 crore for more than 6000 cases.

4. ARUNIM

Association for Rehabilitation under National Trust Initiative of Marketing is a step towards Economic Empowerment of persons with moderate to severe disabilities, who have limited opportunities for open placement. It operates as an independent Marketing Channel for persons employed in sheltered/supported work environments by facilitating skill development, innovative product design and development, adaptations and mechanization wherever appropriate and feasible. ARUNIM is working with 162 partner NGOs throughout the country.

5. Gyan Prabha (Scholarship Scheme)-

The scheme provides financial assistance for pursuing vocational training / professional courses leading to skill development and employment for Persons with Disabilities. Financial assistance @ Rs. 700 p.m. is provided under the scheme.

6. Sahyogi "Care Givers Training & Deployment Scheme

Under the scheme, Care Givers Cell (CGCs) have been set up in selected NGO Centers across the country to provide Care Givers Training Program by the trained professionals. The training of these professionals are being conducted in Delhi in batches. The registration of Care Givers and enrolment of Care Seekers are being done in the CGCs. So far, 40 CGCs have been sanctioned out of which 38 CGCs have been set up in the country. Care Givers deployed are paid wages by the Care Seekers.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.