

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:54
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011
COMMITTEE TO STUDY BACKWARD COMMUNITIES
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan; Dashmuni Deepa

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to widen the scope of handicapped category;
- (b) if so, the details of the physical infirmities likely to be included;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any Committee to study the economic backwardness of some of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) communities especially those living in rural areas and depending upon the traditional occupation/ artisanship;
- (d) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government; and
- (e) if so, the findings thereof and the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

- (a) and (b) Section 2
(i) of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PwD) Act, 1995 defines disability. A Committee was set up on 30.04.2010 consisting of experts in disability sector, representatives of various stakeholders including Central Ministries, State Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations etc. to study various suggestions received on the proposed amendment to the existing PwD Act, 1995 and to prepare a draft new legislation aligning it with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to replace the existing Act. The Committee has submitted draft legislation on 30-06-2011 which is under consideration.
- (c) to (e) A Commission for Economically Backward Classes (CEBC) was set up by the Government in 2005. The Commission submitted its report on 22-07-2010. The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration.