

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3948
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
DEFINITION OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN
Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias

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

- (a) the criteria to define the mentally retarded children; and
- (b) the facilities being provided by the Government to the said children?

Answer

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

(a) As per Section 2 (r) of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PwD) Act, 1995, "mental retardation" means "a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person which is specially characterized by subnormality of intelligence".

(b) National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad, provides rehabilitation of persons with mental retardation through Early Intervention Services, Physiotherapy/Ortho, Biochemistry, Speech & Audiology, Psychological Assessment, Behaviour Modification, Parent Counseling and vocational assessment services etc. NIMH has a Model Special Education Centre in New Delhi which enrolls children in the age range of 3 years to 18 years including children with varying degrees of mental retardation.

National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, a statutory body set up under this Ministry under the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 with the objective to enable persons with disabilities to lead independent life with dignity, support and strengthen Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other service providers and appoint legal guardians to take care the needs of persons with disabilities. The major activities of National Trust include training and awareness programmes, capacity building programme & shelter, care giving & empowerment programmes.

Under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance is provided to NGOs for various projects for providing education, vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, including children with mental retardation.