

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4003
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012
NATIONAL HANDICAPPED WELFARE FUNDS (NHWFS)
Mahato Shri Narahari

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

- (a) whether the funds of National Handicapped Welfare Funds (NHWFs) have been invested in various deposit schemes rather than utilizing them on the welfare of handicapped persons in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for proper utilization of funds of NHWFs for the welfare of handicapped persons in the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

(a) to (c): The National Handicapped Welfare Fund (renamed as National Fund for Persons with Disabilities) was established in 1983 under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890. The interest income generated from the corpus of funds invested in banks and other financial securities is utilized to implement a scholarship scheme for students with disabilities since the academic year 2002-03.

A total of 500 new scholarships, 125 each under the following four major categories of disabilities viz. (i) Orthopedic (ii) Visual (iii) Hearing & (iv) Others are awarded every year. 40% of the scholarships in each category are reserved for girls.

The details of scholarships awarded during the last three years is as follows:-

| Financial Year | Number of students | Amount (in lakh) |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|

| | | |
|---------|-----|-------|
| 2009-10 | 417 | 52.81 |
| 2010-11 | 470 | 60.16 |
| 2011-12 | 492 | 64.93 |