

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1171  
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009  
REHABILITATION OF MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS  
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a) whether the Government has made efforts to find out the number of mentally retarded persons in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of such persons in the country at present, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to rehabilitate said persons?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (D. NAPOLEON)

- (a) & (b) The State-wise details regarding number of mentally retarded persons in the country are at Annexure.
- (c) The following steps are taken to rehabilitate persons with mental retardation by providing services through Government Organizations and through Non-Governmental Organizations given financial assistance:
  - (i) Pre-schools and early intervention centres provide facilities for development of the abilities of children in the age group of 0-6 years.
  - (ii) Education is provided either through inclusive schools or Special Schools to children with mental retardation, taking into consideration their special needs.
  - (iii) Vocational training, as suitable for their individual abilities, is provided to persons with mental retardation who are aged 18 years and above. The focus is on developing employable skills and self-employment. Placement support is also provided.
  - (iv) Loans are provided on low interest rates for self-employment ventures.
  - (v) Social Security Schemes are also implemented.
  - (vi) Supported guardianship is provided to destitute and abandoned persons.
  - (vii) Awareness generation and family and community-based rehabilitation programmes are implemented to facilitate social rehabilitation.