

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2142
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
DATA OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

- (a) Whether the Government has assessed the data of mentally retarded children, blinds, deaf and dumb and persons suffering from loco-motor disability in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any special plan has been prepared for these disabled;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the funds provided to State Governments during the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) the steps taken for the welfare of these disabled children/people?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Details of persons with various disabilities, as per Census 2001. are as below;-

Visual Disability 1.06.34.881

Speech Disability 16.40.868

Hearing Disability 12.61,722

Locomotor Disability 61,05,477

Mental Disability 22,63,821

Total 2,19,06,769

This includes 77.32 lacs children with disabilities.

(c) & (d) Under the Eleventh Five Year Plan, a provision of Rs. 1900 crore has been made for schemes relating to empowerment of persons with disabilities. The Schemes cover various aspects of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities such as provisions of aids and appliances, early intervention, education & vocational training and for providing a barrier-free environment. There are three major schemes for rehabilitation - the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) which provides assistance for a wide variety of projects including education and vocational training; the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) and the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. under which centres providing comprehensive rehabilitation services and projects for creation of a barrier free environment are supported. Funds under the Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme are also provided for giving aids and appliances to children with disabilities under the Sarva Shiksha Abhivan.

(e) The Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) and the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and

Full Participation)Act. 1995 are Central Sector schemes, where funds are released to Government Institutions /Non-government Institutions/Centres/Organizations and not to State Governments. However, under the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation)Act 1995. there is a provision for release of funds to the State Governments. Under the Scheme. Rs.143.17 lacs and Rs.185.56 lacs were released to the State Governments in the year2007-08 & 2008-09 respectively.

(f) The following steps have been taken for the welfare of persons including children.with disabilities:-

(i) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act,1995. the Rehabilitation Council of India Act. 1992 and National Trust Act,1999 have been enacted.

(ii) The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities.2006 focuses on prevention of disabilities, rehabilitation measures, self employment, barrier free environment etc.

(iii) Details of Schemes implemented for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are given in reply to paras (c) & (d) above.

(iv) Seven National Institutes have been set up to provide services, develop man power and conduct research on matters relating to disabilities.

(v) The National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation has been set up for providing assistance to take up economic activities by the persons with disabilities.