

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4886
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
ASSISTANCE FOR BRAILLE STUDY
Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

- (a) whether the prices of Braille study material for visually impaired students have increased manifold;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has withdrawn subsidy/grants being provided to blind persons/institutes for purchase of Braille textbooks and other study material;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to restore the grant/ subsidy which was being released earlier for this cause?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): The Government has set up a National Institute for the Visually Handicapped at Dehradun. This institute has a Braille Press at its headquarters and at its regional centre at Chennai. These Braille Presses have not revised the price of Braille Text Books for the blind children attending special schools since the year 2009. However, the cost of Braille printing and binding has been revised in respect of Braille Books being supplied to various States under the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which have no implication for the visually impaired students.
- (c): No, Sir.
- (d)& (e): Do not arise.