

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2761  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012  
CENSUS ON DISABLED PERSONS  
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvaraya Swamy

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total number of persons enumerated as disabled in the 2001 census;
- (b) whether bodies like 'National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People' and 'Action for Ability Development and Inclusion' (AADI) etc. had raised objections about the inflated figure of disabled persons;
- (c) whether in the census for 2011, adequate precautions have been taken so that realistic figures are recorded by the Census Enumerators; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIR. P. N. SINGH)

- (a): The total number of disabled persons in India according to Census 2001 is 2,19,06,769.
- (b): The figure of disabled persons returned at Census 2001 was not considered as inflated by any organization/agency, and as such, no objection was raised by any of the of the organizations. However, a few organizations did not agree with the number of disabled returned at the Census 2001.
- (c) & (d): A number of changes have been incorporated in Census 2011 for better capturing of data including that on disability. The details of the measures taken on the issues relating to the question on disability are given hereunder:
  - (i) With a view to ensure complete coverage of all the disabled persons in the country, the question on disability canvassed at the Census 2011 and the definition of various types of disabilities were modified in consultation with major stakeholders in Government and those working for the welfare of disabled including National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People. The question on disability included in the Household Schedule attempted to collect information on eight types of disabilities as against five included in the Household Schedule of Census of India 2001. The eight types of disabilities on which information has been collected are disability 'In Seeing', 'In Hearing', 'In Speech', 'In Movement', 'Mental Retardation', 'Mental Illness', 'Any Other' and 'Multiple Disability'.
  - (ii) Another important feature of the question on disability has been that it attempted to collect information on almost all types of disabilities listed in the Persons With Disabilities Act, 1995 and the National Trust Act, 1999.
  - (iii) The NGOs in disability Sector were involved in the task of training and sensitizing census functionaries up to the district level.
  - (iv) In addition, special publicity modules were developed to generate awareness about various questions including that on disability canvassed during Census 2011.