

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:338
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
WELFARE OF PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGED
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to facilitate the education, training and rehabilitation of the physically and mentally challenged in the country and the details of the assistance provided therein during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the beneficiaries during the said period;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new scheme for the welfare of the physically and mentally challenged persons; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per entry No.9 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, "Relief of the disabled" figures in the State List. However, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Disability Affairs supplements the efforts of the State Governments through its various schemes/organizations. The major schemes being run for the welfare of the persons with disabilities, including physically and mentally challenged are (i) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) – Grants-in-aid is provided to non-governmental organizations under the scheme (ii) Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) – Assistance is provided to Implementing Agencies for providing aids and appliances to persons with disabilities under the scheme. Besides, National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities (a statutory body under National Trust Act, 1999) is also implementing various schemes/ programmes for the welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities. These are (i) Gyan Prabha – a scholarship scheme for education and vocational training (ii) Aspiration – an early intervention/school readiness training programme & (iii) Samarth – a scheme for short term and long term stay facility for persons with developmental disability. A Statement indicating details of funds released and beneficiaries under the DDRS Scheme is at Annexure-I (a) & (b); under ADIP Scheme is at Annexure-II and under schemes of National Trust at Annexure-III (a) to (c)

(c) & (d): The Department has introduced the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme for Students with Disabilities (RGNF) in November, 2012 to increase opportunities to students with disabilities for pursuing higher education leading to degrees such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The scheme has been made effective from April, 2012. Introduction of new schemes is an ongoing process.