

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:323  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013  
HANDICAPPED PERSONS  
Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) the number of physically handicapped/mentally challenged persons in the country along with the measures taken by the Union Government for their rehabilitation, gender-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government is contemplating to provide shelters for the physically handicapped and mentally challenged people in various parts of the country.
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the time by which the same is likely to be provided?

**Answer**

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

(a) The total number of persons with disability (PwDs) in the country which includes physically and mentally challenged persons are 2.19 crore as per Census, 2001. Number of persons with disabilities State/UT-wise is at Annexure – I. With a view to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities, the Government has enacted the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The Act also provides for 3% reservation of posts for persons with disabilities in Government establishments. In addition, the Union Government provides financial assistance to various implementing agencies including Non Governmental Organisation for distribution of aids and appliances to the needy PwDs. Further financial assistance is also provided to Non- Governmental Organisation for providing education, vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in different parts of the country. Union Government with active support of the State Governments also facilitates creation of infrastructure and capacity building at the district level for awareness generation, rehabilitation, training and guiding of grass root level functionaries, through District Disabilities Rehabilitation Centres.

(b) Government of India launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 to assist States/UTs in taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the urban poor including physically handicapped in 65 select cities in the country under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme. For other Cities/Towns, the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) was launched. The duration of Mission was upto 31.3.2012 which has been extended by 2 years upto the end of financial year 2013-14 for completion of projects sanctioned upto March 2012 and implementation of 3 pro-poor reforms under BSUP and IHSDP components of JNNURM. A minimum of 12% beneficiary contribution has been stipulated under the guidelines of the JNNURM-Scheme which is 10% in the case of SC/ST/BC/OBC/ PH and other weaker sections. As on 06.02.2013, total 527 projects comprising of total project cost of Rs. 29786.22 crores and 1083 projects comprising of total project cost of Rs. 11936.91 crores have been approved for construction/up-gradation of total 1005917 DUs & 563807 DUs respectively.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing the Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY). As per the RAY Guidelines, a minimum beneficiary share of 12% (10% in the case of SC/ST/BC/OBC/ PH and other weaker Sections) of the cost of the shelter is recovered from the beneficiary, so that it has value to him/her; and where the beneficiary is a vulnerable female-headed household, a household with one member physically or mentally handicapped, etc the State may not ask for more than the minimum contribution.

National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy (NUHHP): 2007 advocates the promotion of sustainable development of habitat in the country with a view to ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society. 'Land' and 'Colonisation' are State subject, therefore it is the primary responsibility of State Governments to ensure shelters to all citizens. There is no specific scheme to provide shelters for the physically handicapped and mentally challenged. However, under the scheme of Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP) interest subsidy is provided to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG) beneficiaries on availing loans from the Banks/Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to enhance affordability of these income segments. Under this scheme, an interest subsidy of 5 percent per annum will be given upfront on loans upto Rs. 1,00,000/-. Guidelines of the scheme advocates that Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) should give preference to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Minority, Person with Disabilities and Women (subject to beneficiaries being from EWS/LIG segments) in accordance with their proportion in total population of the city/town while identifying the beneficiaries. Progress made under ISHUP as on date is annexed.

(c) State-wise details of Projects sanctioned under BSUP & IHSDP are at Annexure-II.

(d) Housing & slum development being a State subject, it is upto the State Government concerned to provide housing & related civic amenities to urban poor including physically handicapped/disabled and to rehabilitate them depending upon their priorities & availability of financial resources; as such no time frame can be fixed.