

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1211

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

AUTISM AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

Shanavas Shri M. I.

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

- (a) whether the Government has carried out any survey to determine the number of children suffering from autism and other developmental disorders in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to help and support the children suffering from developmental disorders and autism;
- (d) the details of Dhaka Declaration based on the International Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Developmental Disabilities held in July 2011 in Dhaka, Bangladesh; and
- (e) the present status of implementation and achievements of the programmes designed to help and support the children with autism and developmental disorders by the Government and also on-line with the Dhaka Declaration?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

- (a) & (b) No, Sir. Autism and other developmental disorders have not been covered as a separate category for the purpose of census by the Registrar General of India or the survey by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).
- (c) The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act was passed in 1999 and National Trust, a statutory body, was set up under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It implements programmes for early intervention, education, health, employment, residential care, vocational training etc for the welfare of autism and developmental disorders.
- (d) Statement indicating details of the priority areas endorsed in the Dhaka declaration are at Annexure-I.
- (e) A Statement indicating details and achievements of the programmes being run by the National Trust for the help and support and persons with autism and development disorders is at Annexure-II.