

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2333
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
POLICY FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS
Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the country is lagging behind in formulating policies for the physically/ mentally handicapped population;
- (b) if so, whether there is a need for such a policy as the interests of the handicapped population cannot be protected in the absence of any specific institutional mechanism;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Central Government developed and adopted the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in 2006 which recognizes that Persons with Disabilities are a valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society. The National Policy recognizes the fact that a majority of persons with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.

The National Policy lays stress on Physical Rehabilitation, Educational Rehabilitation and Economic Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities for a dignified life in society.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry to coordinate all matters relating to implementation of the Policy. The Central Coordination Committee, with stakeholder representation, coordinates matters relating to implementation of the National Policy. The Policy document also identifies other Ministries such as Ministries of Home Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, Rural Development, Urban Development etc. for implementation of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities.

The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at Central level and State Commissioners at the State level are the agencies responsible for monitoring implementation of provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and National Policy for Persons with Disabilities.