

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2374
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
MEDICAL CERTIFICATES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the procedure to issue medical certificates to children with autism for academic and other purposes;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that parents of children with autism are facing difficulties to get medical certificates as hospitals are not authorised to issue such certificates;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/directions issued by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Autism has not been mentioned as a separate category of `disability` under Section 2 (i) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and therefore medical certificate are not issued to children with autism under the Act. However, the Government is aware of the problem in this regard. An assessment tool namely `Indian Scale of Assessment of Autism (ISAA), has been developed in the year 2008 which is being used by professionals for assessment of autism.