

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2378  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013  
DISABILITY ACT  
Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to widen the definition of disability to give legal recognition and include some more area of disability;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is also considering to replace the present disabilities act with a more comprehensive legislation for the purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to request the State Governments to set up a separate Department of Disability Affairs; and
- (e) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) A Committee was set up on 30.04.2010 consisting of experts in disability sector, representatives of various stakeholders, Central Ministries, State Governments, Non- Governmental Organizations etc. to prepare a draft new legislation in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to replace the existing Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PwD) Act, 1995. The Committee submitted its report suggesting a draft legislation titled "the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2011" on 30.06.2011. Subsequently, the Ministry had initiated consultations with concerned Central Ministries and Departments on the draft Bill. Based on the comments received, a fresh draft Rights to the Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2012 (Draft RPwD Bill, 2012) has been prepared and circulated to all States/UTs seeking their comments/views.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.