

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1864
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013
SETTING UP OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
Pakkirappa Shri S.;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched a composite programme on schemes for persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, Safai Karamcharis and the differently abled;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formed a separate Department of Disability Affairs to provide special focus on the physical, economic and educational rehabilitation of the differently abled and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the facilities and benefits given to disabled persons viz. allotment of shops and accommodation to those having more than 50 per cent disability?

Answer

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

- (a) : No, Sir.
- (b) : Does not arise.
- (c) : A new Department of Disability Affairs was created in May, 2012 for providing greater focus on issues of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The Department has been taking measures for educational, social, economical and psychological rehabilitation of PwDs including creation of barrier free environment, providing assistive devices, special education, vocational training and early intervention programmes and scholarships through its various schemes.
- (d) : As per Section 43 of the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) Act, 1995, the appropriate Govt. and local authorities are required to frame schemes in favour of PwDs for preferential allotment of land at concessional rates for houses, setting up of business, setting up of special recreation centres and establishment of special schools, establishment of research centres and establishment of factories by entrepreneurs with disabilities.