

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4182
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
RESERVATION QUOTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) The nature of physical disabilities considered under the reservation quota for the purpose of admission in educational institutes;
- (b) whether the quota for the disabled is being filled up regularly in educational institutes in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to increase the percentage of quota for the disabled; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) As per Section 2 (i) of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PWD Act), disability means- (i) Blindness; (ii) Low vision; (iii) Leprosy-cured; (iv) Hearing impairment; (v) Locomotor disability; (vi) Mental retardation; (vii) Mental illness.

As per section 2(i) of the said Act, Persons with Disabilities (PwD) means a person suffering from not less than forty percent of any disability certified by a medical authority.

As per section 39 of the PWD Act, all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government, shall reserve not less than three per cent seats for persons with disabilities.

(b) & (c) For implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, The University Grants Commission has issued guidelines to Universities and Colleges for providing three percent reservation (horizontally) in admission for PwDs. Also, 3% reservation in admission is provided for PwDs in Central Educational Institutions under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Further, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 (RTE Act) provides for the right of children to free and compulsory education to the children of 6-14 years age group including children with special needs. Through an amendment in 2012, the RTE Act included children with disabilities under the category of 25% earmarked coverage for 'disadvantaged children'. As per the data available, 15,01,734 Children with Special Needs have been enrolled from Class I to XII in the year 2007-08 and in higher educational institutions a total of 53,975 PwD students were enrolled during the year 2010-11.

(d) & (e) In the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014, as introduced by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in the Rajya Sabha on 7.02.2014, it has been proposed to provide reservation of not less than five per cent seats in all Government institutions of higher education and other higher education institutions receiving aid from the Government for persons with benchmark disabilities.