

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4627
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014
PENSION TO SPECIAL CHILDREN
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any scheme to provide pension or other support to the special children in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure a secure and dignified life to the special children?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (c): No, Madam. There is no scheme for pension to special children. However, Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering Integrated Child development Services (ICDS) Scheme, a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by all the State Governments/UT Administrations across the country. The Scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant women and lactating mothers by providing a package of six services comprising (i) supplementary nutrition, (ii) pre-school non formal education, (iii) nutrition and health education, (iv) immunization, (v) health checkup; and (vi) referral services through Anganwadi Centres at grassroots level. Three services viz. immunization with public health systems of the Ministry of health and Family Welfare. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a self-selecting scheme. It is open to all children below six years of age and pregnant mothers.

Further, Ministry of Women and Child Development is also administering Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) with the aim to contribute to the improvement in the well-being of children of difficult circumstances, as well as to the reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and action that lead to abuse neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from their families. The ICPS focuses its activities among other on any other vulnerable child (including but not limited to) e.g. children of migrant families, children living on the streets, SCs/STs, child beggars, exploited/trafficked/drug-affected children, children of prisoners, children of women in prostitution and children affected/infected with HIV/AIDS. One of the major component of ICPS is to strengthen shelter homes, children's homes, observations homes, special homes, specialized services with special needs (disabled and children affected by HIV/AIDS). This Scheme is being implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations. All States/UTs except Jammu and Kashmir have signed the MoU for implementation of ICPS.