

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1499

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015

DISABLED FRIENDLY SERVICES

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

- (a) whether any gaps have been identified in delivery of education services to disabled people at school and college level and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the facilities at schools and colleges are disabled friendly and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether reports of shortage of braille textbooks for blind students in schools and colleges have come to the notice of the Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): To enable education for children with disabilities (CWSN), the Government of India is implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which as a programme for universalising elementary education for all children from 6-14 years of age and includes components to facilitate inclusion of CWSN in schools. Under the SSA, 82.33% schools have been made disabled friendly by providing them barrier free access.

At the secondary level, CWSNs are provided assistance under the Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) component of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), where girls with disabilities, inter alia, are given an additional stipend @Rs. 200 per month per girl child at the secondary level.

The University Grant Commission (UGC) has implemented a scheme called "Higher education for Persons with Special needs (HEPSN) which is basically meant for creating an environment in higher education institutions for differently-abled persons, which includes, inter alia, constructions aimed at improving accessibility, purchase of equipments to enrich learning etc.

(c) & (d): No reports of shortage of Braille textbooks for blind students in schools and colleges have come to the notice of the Government. Under SSA, 87.3% blind students were provided Braille Books in 2013-14.