

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2148
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
POLICY FOR DISABLED
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

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

- (a) whether adequate institutional mechanism exists in the country for protection of the Fundamental Rights of the differently-abled persons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of persons suffering from autism and other disabilities in the country; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate new policies/schemes for the differently-abled persons in the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

- (a) & (b) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for appointment of Chief Commissioner and Commissioners for persons with disabilities at the Central and State levels to take steps to safeguard the rights and to make facilities available to persons with disabilities. The Government has introduced the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 in Rajya Sabha on 7.02.2014 which contains provisions for strengthening of institutional mechanism and better implementation of policies and programmes for empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- (c) While Census 2011 does not contain specific data on the number of persons with autism, there are 2.68 crore persons with various disabilities in the country.
- (d) Formulation of policies/schemes for the persons with disabilities is an ongoing process. At present, National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006 is in operation. Some of the important schemes which are envisaged to be formulated during the remaining period of 12th Plan are:
 - (i) Scholarships for 'Top Class' Education and Free Coaching for students with disabilities.
 - (ii) Modernization of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) and
 - (iii) Establishment of Indian Sign Language Training Centre, National Centre of Universal Design and Barrier-free Environment, Centre for Disability Sports, State Spinal Injury Centres and National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation.