

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6383

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015

SHORTAGE OF BRAILLE TEXT BOOKS

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of Braille textbooks and the prices of Braille study material for visually impaired students have increased manifold in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to(c) National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, an autonomous body of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities had undertaken a study in the year 2008 in order to assess Braille Printing requirements for providing Braille Text Books to school going children. The assessment was primarily based on the data of visually impaired children for school going children available through Seventh All India School Education Survey (2002). As per this survey there were 2,10,107 visually impaired children from Primary to Senior Secondary level attending schools. The requirement of Braille pages per year was estimated at 27,93,60,670, whereas the capacity of country was 6,19,98,000 pages per annum with the combined effort of the Braille Presses established by the Government and Voluntary Organizations. The prices of Braille Study Material of Central Government Braille Presses has not been increased. No state-wise data for shortage of Braille Textbooks are maintained.

(d) The Government has approved a new Central Scheme of "Support for establishment /modernization/capacity augmentation of Braille presses" during the 12th Five Year Plan Period with effect from 2014-15. The objectives of the Scheme are:

- (i) to establish 18 new Braille Presses
- (ii) to establish 03 small scale Braille printing units in UTs;
- (iii) to modernize 12 old Braille Presses
- (iv) to augment Braille printing capacity of 03 modern Braille printing presses

The Government has approved two proposals for establishment of new Braille Presses, three proposals for capacity augmentation of the existing Presses and ten proposals for modernization of old Braille Presses. After implementation of the Scheme, printing capacity of Braille pages in the country will increase to 23,40,00,000 Braille pages per year.