

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4805
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the findings of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), on the decline in enrolment of differently-abled students in higher educational institutions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of enrolments of differently-abled students in higher education institutions in the country during each of the last three years, State- wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the representation of the differently- abled students in the higher education?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): There is increase in the enrolment of persons with disability (PwDs) students in higher education, as per the All India Survey on Higher Education. MHRD. The State-wise enrollment of PwD students in Higher Education (based on actual response) for the years 2010-11, 2011-12 & 2012-13 is given in the Annexure.

(c) The following schemes/facilities have been launched to enhance the representation of the differently-abled students in Higher Education: -

1. Upgradation of existing Polytechnics to integrate the Persons with Disabilities (PwD): The objective of the scheme is to promote education and training of persons with disabilities by integrating them in the mainstream of technical and vocational education and skill development programmes through formal and non-formal programme.

2. Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (IDSPSN) - The scheme implemented by UGC, has the following three components:

i Establishment of Enabling Units for PwDs. Resource Units are established in colleges to facilitate admissions, provide guidance and counseling, to create awareness about the needs of Differently abled persons and to assist PwD graduates to get the employment.

ii. Providing Access to PwDs : Under this component, accessibility are addressed by the college relating to issues as per the stipulations of the Persons with Disability (PwD) Act, 1995.

iii. Providing Special Equipment to augment Educational Services for PwDs : The colleges are provided one time grant upto Rs.1.5 lakh to procure devices to help PwD students enrolled for Higher Education.

3. Teacher preparation in Special Education Scheme (TEPSE): The scheme, implemented by UGC, provides financial assistance to offer B.Ed, and M.Ed, degree course with specialization in one of the disability areas.

4. Financial Assistance to Visually Challenged Teachers (FAVCT): The objective of the scheme, implemented by UGC, is to provide facility to help visually challenged permanent teachers to achieve self-dependence by using various aids for teaching, learning and research.

5. UGC also provide relaxations to PwDs in the National Eligibility Test.

6. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities: The UGC has been implementing the scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities since 2012 as entrusted by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Disability Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Under this scheme the UGC executes selection process for award of fellowship by considering application received through On-line submission from research scholars belonging to disability category for pursuing M.Phil./Ph.D. research in Universities /Institutions/ Colleges in India, and payment of grant to selected candidates belonging to disability category is being made by the above said Ministry itself under cited scheme.

7. Saksham Scholarship Scheme: The Scheme is implemented by All India Council of Technical Education The objective of the

scheme is to provide encouragement and support to 1000 differently abled students to pursue technical education in a year, fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in the scheme.

8. National Overseas Scholarship for Students with disabilities: The scheme is implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment wherein financial assistance to the 20 PwD students, per year, who are pursuing Master's level courses and Ph.D abroad in the specified fields of study mentioned in the scheme.

9. Reservation in admissions: UGC has issued instructions to all universities and colleges for providing 3% reservation (horizontally) in admissions for PwD students.

10. Facilitating PwD students under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Integrating PwDs in the mainstream of Technical and Vocational Education: Ministry had issued instructions to the Heads of all polytechnics covered under the above Scheme that no fee of any kind should be charged from the PwD students. However, the Polytechnics, if required, may charge only examination fee from these students that too when the students get their Scholarship amount.

11. Ministry has also directed all Centrally Funded Educational Institutions/Autonomous organizations/attached offices in Ministry to ensure providing barrier free environment in the buildings, which would include provisions of ramps, rails, lifts, adaption of toilets for wheel users, brail signages and auditory signals, tactile flooring etc. to PwDs, as envisaged in PwD Act.

12. Expert Committee constituted to identify the courses according to the categories of disabilities: The HRD Ministry has also constituted an Expert Committee to identify the courses according to the categories of the disabilities as identified for the various : technical posts and the recommendations of the committee have been circulated to all the Centrally funded Institutes/Autonomous organization/attached offices for implementation.