

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1208
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015
Schemes for Mentally Challenged
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mentally challenged people in the country including Karnataka and the method adopted by the surveying agencies to identify them, State-wise;
- (b) the major schemes being implemented by the Government to provide monetary and medical support to the mentally challenged;
- (c) the total funds allocated by Government for such schemes and the amount spent on these schemes in the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether any problem is being faced by the Government agencies and NGOs in implementing these schemes; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure effective implementation of the schemes and coverage of the intended beneficiaries?

Answer

Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment
SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR

(a) The population of persons with mental retardation and mental illness in the country including Karnataka as per Census 2011 is at Annexure-I. The Census is conducted by the Registrar General of India which follows elaborate mechanism for collection of data in this regard. Census 2011 covers data relating to persons with visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech impairment, locomotor disability, mental retardation, mental illness, multiple disability and any other disability.

(b) & (c) The Ministry under the Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme provides grant-in-aid to the various implementing agencies including NGOs on the recommendation of State Government/Union Territories Administration to assist the needy disabled persons including mentally challenged in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufacture, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and at the same time enhance their economic potential. Under this scheme kits for persons with intellectual and development activities consisting of the following devices are provided:-

(i) Four kits for mentally retarded for various age groups.

(ii) Three TLM kits for children with multiple disabilities in various age groups.

(iii) ALIMCO Model Sensory Kit: Multi Sensory Inclusive Education Development (MSIED) Kit for Persons with Intellectual and Development Disabilities.

The details of fund allocated and State-wise expenditure under the ADIP Scheme for the last three years is at Annexure-II.

Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) of the Ministry also includes projects for providing education, vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with mental disabilities.

The details of fund allocated and State-wise expenditure under the DDRS Scheme for the last three years is at Annexure-III.

Further, National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, a statutory organization under the Ministry implements the following schemes for person with mental retardation and mental illness:

1. Niramaya (Health Insurance) Scheme:- Niramaya is a Health Insurance Scheme for covering persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities in the entire country (except the State of J&K). Health insurance coverage of Rs 1 lakh is available under the scheme to persons with disabilities, for a range of medical services OPD treatment, therapies and hospitalization etc.

2. Gyan Prabha (Scholarship Scheme):- The National Trust implements the Scheme to provide scholarship to Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities to pursue post school professional courses or vocational training, leading to skill development and employment. Salient features of the scheme are as follows –

- (i) Scholarship of Rs. 1000/- P.M for 1 year
- (ii) Renewal is based on regular attendance in the class
- (iii) No minimum qualification
- (iv) No income limit.

The details of funds allocated under Niramaya Scheme and Gyan Prabha Scheme are at Annexure-IV. State-wise/UTs wise details of fund spent under Niramaya Scheme and Gyan Prabha Scheme are at Annexure-V and Annexure-VI respectively.

(d) General problem faced in implementing the schemes is lack of awareness in the community.

(e) For effective implementation of the Scheme and to ensure transparency, the Government has taken the initiative like online submission of proposal by NGOs and simplified the procedure for availing grants-in-aid. Mega camps are also organized by the Ministry where kits for mentally impaired persons are provided. The Ministry has also launched the awareness generation schemes to spread awareness about various initiatives and programmes of the Government. In addition, the Government also reviews its schemes from time to time to ensure their effective implementation to meet desired objective.