GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1346 ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015 Schemes for Differently Abled Kaushik Shri Ramesh Chander;Pandula Dr. Ravindra Babu ;Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh;Somaiya Dr. Kirit

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

(a) the details of schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government for the welfare of differently abled along with the funds sanctioned to various States and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) under these schemes/programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of the progress made under the said schemes;

(c) whether reports of under utilisation of funds by some State Governments/UTs/NGOs have been received by the Government and if so, the details thereof and the mechanism adopted/measures taken by the Government for full utilisation of such funds and to ensure that the benefits of such schemes reach the needy people; and

(d) whether the Government has also received proposals from NGOs regarding welfare of differently abled and if so, the details and present status thereof, State wise including Maharashtra?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) The schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government for the welfare of the differently abled include :

(i) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) scheme under which grant-in-aid is provided to various implementing agencies including NGOs on the recommendation of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to assist the persons with disabilities in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids. Statement of fund released to various Implementing Agencies including NGOs State wise during the last three years and current year is at Annexure I.

(ii) Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (SIPDA), under which assistance is provided to State Governments and to autonomous organizations/Institutions for various activities relating to implementation of, the Act, particularly for creating barrier free environment, supporting District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs), Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) etc. Details of funds released to State Governments/UT Administrations under the scheme during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure II.

(iii) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) under which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for their projects, aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels. A statement indicating State wise funds sanctioned during the last three years and current year under the Scheme is at Annexure-III.

(iv) Scholarship schemes namely Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities, National Overseas Scholarship for Student with Disabilities, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships for Students with Disabilities, Scholarship for Top Class Education. The Scholarships are paid directly to the Students and not to the State Government/NGOs.

(v) The scheme of giving incentives to employers for providing employment to persons with disabilities in the private sector, it provides for payment of employer's contribution towards the Employees Provident Fund and the Employees State Insurance for the first three years, by the Government of India, in respect of persons with disability appointed in the private sector.

(b) Under ADIP Scheme Grant-in-aid of Rs.101.28 crore was released during 2014-15, which is the highest ever since the inception of the Scheme in 1985. Department has notified contemporary aids and assistive devices for Visually Impaired, Leprosy Affected, Hearing Impaired and Kits for person with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and also high end devices like Cochlear Implants for children. Progress made under DDRS in release of funds vis-a-vis notional allocation (State wise) is at Annexure-III.

(c) Under the SPIDA Scheme short-comings relating to under utilization of funds have been noticed during the said period. Under utilisation of funds is mainly on account on non-receipt of proposals or deficiencies in proposals. Grant-in-aid is released to National Institutes/ALIMCO in respect of States/UTs where there is less utilization of funds. To ensure full utilization of funds under DDRS scheme fresh/subsequent release of grants to implementing agencies during a year are made only on receipt of Utilization Certificates in respect of previous year's grants. Other measures include monitoring by respective State Governments/UT Administrations, evaluation studies from time to time through independent evaluation agencies, inter alia, to check proper utilization of funds inspections by the State Governments concerned, National Institutes and officers of the Ministry. Applications by NGOs are being invited on-line from the financial year 2014-15.

(d) Under ADIP Scheme proposals are received from various implementing agencies including NGOs with the recommendation of the State Governments. Under DDRS proposals are received from NGOs only. Status of funds sanctioned/released under these schemes

are at Annexures I,II & III.