

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:191
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY
Kher Smt. Kirron

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has taken adequate steps for rehabilitation and social, educational and economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a significant percentage of school children in India suffer from one or more Specific Learning Disability; if so, the details thereof including the prevalence of Specific Learning Disability in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the rights of such children or concession allowed to them by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE);
- (d) whether the Government has developed universal guidelines to identify children with Specific Learning Disability in order to provide specialised training and concession to them, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide remedial/ special education to children with specific learning disability in the country?

Answer

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT)

(a) to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 191 for answer on 10.03.2015 regarding Specific Learning Disability.

(a) : Schemes implemented for rehabilitation and social, educational and economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are Deendyal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS); Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids / Appliances (ADIP); Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA); Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme for Students with Disabilities (RGNF); Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Students with Disabilities; Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities, GyanPrabha Scheme of National Trust; Scholarship Scheme from Trust Fund National Fund and Incentives to employers in the private sector for providing employment to the PwDs.

In addition PwD Act, 1995 provides for reservation of at least 3% vacancies in the public sector for the PwDs.

(b) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 recognises seven types of disabilities. Specific learning disability is not included in the said Act. However, under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a programme for universalising elementary education for all children from 6~ 14 years of age. States have identified children suffering from learning disabilities. Under SSA, 2.84 lakh children with learning disabilities have been enrolled in schools. State wise details are given at Annex-A. Under the Scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) the number of students with Learning Disability is 17838j as per Annex. B.

(c) : Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made provision in its Examination By-Laws to provide following concession for Persons with Disabilities:-

Exemption to Blind, Physically Handicapped, Autistic, Dyslexic, Spastic and candidates with Disabilities as defined in the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

Spastic, Blind, Physically Handicapped, Dyslexic, Autistic and Candidates with disabilities as defined in the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 appearing for the Secondary School Examination or Senior School Certificate Examination is permitted to use an amanuensis or allowed additional time as given below or both:-

For paper of 3 hours duration 60 minutes
For paper of 2 xh hours duration 50 minutes
For paper of 2 hours duration 40 minutes
For paper of 1 xh hours duration 30 minutes

(d) : The Government has introduced the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 in Rajya Sabha on 07.02.2014, in which Specific Learning Disability has been included in the list of Disabilities. Further under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) detailed assessment guidelines have been developed to identify various groups of children with special needs, including children with specific learning disabilities. The guidelines also include identification of slow learners and children with mild mental retardation.

â,¬: Rehabilitation Council of India, a statutory body under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, has been instrumental in developing trained manpower through regular as well as distance mode to cater to the specific educational needs of children with learning disabilities. As per the provisions of UNCRPD, the Council has taken initiative to start B.Ed. Special Education (Learning Disability) course through distance mode also. Accordingly, 03 State Open Universities, namely, Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University, Bhopal, Vardhmaan Mahaveer Open University, Kota and Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani have been encouraged to shoulder the responsibility to start the said course through distance mode in their respective States from the academic session 2015-16 to meet the demands of trained professionals in Learning Disability. So far the Council has produced 894 professionals in Learning Disability through distance mode through Karnataka State Open University, Mysore to cater to the needs of children with learning disabilities.

Further, under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 20544 resource persons have specifically been engaged for children with special needs. These resource persons are technically qualified to teach children with special needs. They provide remedial/special education to children with specific learning disability.