

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4815

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014

R&D for Differently Abled

Devi Smt. Rama;Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay"

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken purposes to undertake any Research and Development (R&D) works for developing new technology for the benefits of the differently abled, particularly the deaf and dumb;
- (b) If so, the details of ongoing R&D activities alongwith the investment made in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has set up/proposes to set up National Centres/Adarsh Vidyalayas/Special Schools for blind, deaf and dumb persons in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, location and State/UT-wise including Bihar?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT

(c) Yes, Sir. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH), Mumbai being the nodal institute in the total rehabilitation of the persons with hearing impairment has undertaken various projects /R&D activities.

Under the 12th Plan a Scheme of Research on disability related technology, products and issues has been envisaged to provide for research for improving technology and products for persons with disabilities in collaboration with scientific institutions in the country. An amount of Rs.10 crore has been earmarked for this purpose.

(b) The ongoing R&D activities undertaken by AYJNIHH alongwith budgetary details are as follows:-

i) Development of the Hearing In Noise Test (HINT) in Hindi Language. (Budget: Rs.3.67 lakhs)

ii) Development of Home Auditory Training Programme for Parents of Children with Hearing Impairment. (Budget : Rs.3.5 lakhs)

iii) Design and Development of Indian Sign Language Captioning Framework-in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Pune and funded by Dept. of Information Technology, New Delhi. (Budget: Rs.429.90 lakhs)

iv) Low cost high fidelity TV audio signal enhancement device using FM technology-Project funded fully by Science for Equity Empowerment and Development (SEED) division under Technology Interventions for Elderly (TIE) Programme of Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology. (Budget: Rs.31.42 lakh).

Besides above, the Department of Science and Technology is implementing a programme "Technology Interventions for Disabled and Elderly" under which development and adaptation of technology for improving quality of life of differently abled persons is taken up through application of Science and Technological inputs".

The ongoing R&D activities include design of simple solutions/ assistive devices required by disabled persons in different built environments. An amount Rs.3.00 crore per year is utilized for the programme.

Â© & (d) At present, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun is running a Special School for the blind at Dehradun.

Under the 12th Plan a Scheme of Establishment of a college for the deaf in each of the five regions of the country is envisaged. An amount of Rs.20 crore has been earmarked for this purpose.