

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:133

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014

REHABILITATION OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna;Singh Shri Bharat

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

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to ascertain the number of differently abled persons in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has launched any scheme/programme for education, training and rehabilitation of the differently abled, including women and children in differently parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the financial assistance/funds provided by the Government under the said schemes/ programmes and the utilisation of such funds during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the number of beneficiaries particularly women and children under the schemes/programmes during the said period, State/UT-wise and the mechanism put in place by the Government to ensure effective implementation of the schemes and proper utilization of funds; and
- (e) the action plan being contemplated for the welfare and rehabilitation of the differently abled persons in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND 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.133 for answer on 2/12/2014 regarding Rehabilitation of Differently Abled Persons

(a) As per Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in the country. State-wise population of persons with disabilities is at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) Major schemes of the Ministry in the area of education, vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are:-

(i) Education: Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) for providing financial assistance through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to run special schools, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) scheme for providing fellowship for pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D courses. Further, the Ministry has recently launched other scholarship scheme for students for disabilities namely National Overseas Scholarship Schemes, Pre-matric Scholarship and Post-matric Schemes during the current financial year.

(ii) Training: DDRS has provision also for providing financial assistance through NGOs for vocational training programmes. The National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) also has a scheme for imparting skill training for persons with disabilities through vocational rehabilitation centres, state training institutes and reputed NGOs recommended by the States.

(iii) Rehabilitation: DDRS has components also for providing financial assistance for rehabilitation of persons with orthopedic, speech, visual and mental disabilities. In addition, under Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme), financial assistance is provided to various implementing agencies such as NGOs, National Institute, District Rehabilitation Centres etc. to provide aids and appliances to the needy persons with disabilities.

Funds released, number of beneficiaries under the major schemes namely DDRS, ADIP, RGNF and skill training programme of NHFDC during the last three years and in the current financial year are at Annexure-II, Annexure-III, Annexure-IV and Annexure-V respectively. No separate information relating to number of women and children beneficiaries under these schemes is available. With a view to ensure effective implementation of the schemes and proper utilization of the funds, the Ministry has been advising the States to expedite their recommendations on the proposal wherever necessary and on-line system of submission of application has also been developed for the purpose.

(e) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 is the principal legal instrument for empowerment of persons with disabilities. With a view to streamline the said Act in line with the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities to broaden the scope of rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities, the Government has introduced the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 in the Rajya Sabha on 7/02/2014.

