

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:236

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED

Gupta Shri Sudheer

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

- (a) whether the Government adequately rehabilitate the differently abled persons including with fifty per cent or more disabilities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether despite the adequate measures in place, such persons are deprived of decent means of livelihood and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken to create employment opportunities/self employment for such persons; and
- (d) whether the Government has issued instructions to the private sector for providing employment opportunity to the differently abled persons, if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement referred in reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.236 for answer on 9/12/2014 regarding Employment Opportunities for Differently Abled.

(a) & (b) As per Section 2(t) of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, person with disability means a person suffering from not less than forty per cent. of disability as certified by a medical authority. Blindness and low vision have also been included in the category of disability under Section 2

(i) of the said Act. Thus, all the persons with disabilities having disability more than 40 per cent including persons with visual impairment are covered within the ambit of the aforesaid Act, which recognizes the rights, the opportunities and needs of persons with disabilities and casts responsibility on appropriate Governments to take measures for their empowerment. As per the provision of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, the State Governments are mandated to develop schemes/ programmes for education, rehabilitation, social security, health care of Persons with disabilities. As welfare of persons with disabilities is primarily a State subject, the Central Government however supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Central Schemes/Programmes and National Institutes. The major schemes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances, Scheme for Implementation of PwD Act, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme etc. Seven National Institutes and two Central Public Sector Undertakings namely, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India and National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation are providing various rehabilitative services to persons with disabilities.

(c) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 mandates reservation not less than 3 per cent vacancies for persons with disabilities (blindness, low vision, hearing impaired, locomotor disability and cerebral palsy) in Government employment. Information relating to employment by the States/UTs is not compiled centrally. However, the States/UTs have been requested by the Ministry to take steps to implement the above provision of the Act and conduct special drives to fill up vacancies meant for persons with disabilities. Further, the Government implements schemes for skill development and vocational training for persons with disabilities in the country to enhance the scope for their employment. National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) also provides loans at concessional interest rate to persons with disabilities to promote self-employment.

(d) As per Section 41 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the appropriate Governments and the local authorities shall, within the limits of their economic capacity and development, provide incentives to employers both in public and private sectors to ensure that at least five per cent of their work force is composed of persons with disabilities. The Central Government has a scheme to provide incentives to employers in the private sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities under which the Government provides employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for three years in respect of employees with disabilities employed on or after 1.04.2008 with a monthly salary upto Rs.25,000.