

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1690
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014
REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM
Karandlaje Km. Shobha

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

- (a) Whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to find out the number of children affected by autism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the schemes being implemented for the rehabilitation/welfare of children affected by autism?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a)&(b) This Ministry has not conducted any detailed survey to find out the total number of children affected by autism. The Ministry has established the National Trust for the welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities under the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.

(d) The details of schemes being implemented by National Trust for the Rehabilitation/Welfare of children affected by Autism is at Annexure.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1690 for 22.07.2014

1. Niramaya (Health Insurance Scheme)

Niramaya is a health insurance scheme for persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities providing health insurance coverage of Rs. 1.0 lakh. Its features include no age bar, no exclusion of pre-existing medical conditions, no pre-insurance medical test & treatment on reimbursement basis. The scheme is free for BPL beneficiaries. However, premium of Rs.250/- p.a. for family income upto Rs.15,000/- & Rs.500/- p.a. for income higher than it is charged. So far 1,25,247 beneficiaries have been enrolled & claims amounting to Rs. 6.20 Crore of 20,052 beneficiaries have been settled.

2. Samarth (Residential Care Scheme)

It provides safety net to families in crisis by providing short term and long term stay facilities for adults and destitute children. There are 119 such Centers in the country with a capacity of 30 beneficiaries each (24 - residential and 6 day care). Vocational training is also provided for under the scheme. So far, 3362 beneficiaries have been covered out of whom 1988 are with severe disabilities.

3. Aspiration – Early Intervention Program (Day Care Centre)

The Scheme Aspiration-for school readiness by early intervention has been conceived for children upto 6 years of age with 'Developmental Disability' and aims at young children and their parents in a batch of 20 to make them ready for schooling. At present, there are 79 centres across the country.

4. ARUNIM (Association for Rehabilitation under National Trust Initiative of Marketing)

ARUNIM operates as an independent Marketing Channel for products made by persons with disabilities employed in sheltered/supported work environments by facilitating skill development, innovative product design and development, adaptations and mechanization wherever appropriate and feasible. Its mission is to facilitate enterprises that can offer products and services to cater to the domestic and overseas markets, while ensuring self-sustenance and equality.

5. Sahyogi – Care Givers Training & Deployment Scheme

Under Sahyogi scheme, Care Givers Cell (CGCs) have been set up in selected NGO Centers across the country to provide Care Givers Training Program by trained professionals. Training of these professionals is being conducted in Delhi in batches. The registration of Care Givers and enrolment of Care Seekers are being done in the CGCs. So far, 40 CGCs have been sanctioned out of which 36 CGCs have been set up in the country. So far, 2024 caregivers have been trained, out of which 980 Care Givers

deployed.

6. Gyan Prabha (Scholarship Scheme)

Gyan Prabha scheme provides financial assistance for pursuing vocational training/professional courses leading to skill development and employment for Persons with Disabilities. The scheme has been amended in 2010 as under:

(i) Monthly family income limit of Rs. 15,000 has been waived off. The condition of minimum 50% marks for renewal of the scholarship for next year has been waived off. The renewal now is based on regular attendance in the class to be certified by the head of the educational/ training institute.

(ii) The scholarship amount has been increased from Rs.700 p.m. to Rs. 1000 p.m.

7. GHARAUNDA (Group Home Life Long Rehabilitation Center)

GHARAUNDA scheme provides 'Life Long Shelter & Care Facilities' to adult persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities by empanelled Service Providers on payment basis. The scheme is, at present, sanctioned to the following 11 places – Swayamkrushi, Hyderabad, KPAMRC - Bangalore, Open Learning System – Bhubaneswar, Prayas and Partner Hoogly - W.B, Savali – Pune, Govt. of Chattisgarh - Raipur and Govt. of Uttarakhand (Haridwar), Govt. of Tripura (Agartala), Govt. of Haryana (Chandigarh) and MUSKAAN, Delhi.

8. Uddyam Prabha (Incentive) Scheme

Under the Uddyam Prabha scheme, persons with disabilities covered under the National Trust Act. are given interest subsidy up to 5% in case of BPL and 3% in case of others if they avail loan from banks or financial institutions for carrying out income generating ventures. Loan can be availed individually or in a group of any size but the incentive is limited to 5 years on loan up to Rs. 1 lakh per person.