

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1832

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014

WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

- (a) the number of persons with disabilities in the country, State and gender- wise and the measures taken by the Government for their rehabilitation and upliftment along with the expenditure incurred thereon during each of the last two years and the current year, Scheme-wise;
- (b) the details of scholarship schemes run by the Government for the students with disabilities along with the criteria for grant of such scholarships and the number of such students benefited during the said period;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of scholarships under the National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the various welfare schemes have benefited the persons with disabilities in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (Shri Sudarshan Bhagat)

According to Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in the country, out of which the population of persons with disabilities comprises of 1.50 crore males and 1.18 crore female. Their population State-wise is at Annexure – I. Presently, following major schemes for the welfare and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are being implemented:-

- (i) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) under which grant-in-aid is provided to NGOs for projects for the welfare of persons with disabilities
- (ii) Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/ Appliances (ADIP) under which grant is released to Implementing Agencies for providing aids and appliances to persons with disabilities.
- (iii) Scheme of Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PwD Act) under which grant-in-aid is provided to State Governments and various bodies set up by the Central and State Government, including autonomous bodies and Universities, to support activities pursuant to implementation of the provisions of the PwD Act, particularly relating to rehabilitation and provision of barrier- free access.

Details of Grants- in- aid are released during last two years and the current year as on date is as under

Year	Grant-in-aid released		
	DDRS	ADIP scheme	SIPDA
2012-13	46.00 crores	Rs. 70.60 crores	20.03 crores
2013-14	63.64 crores	Rs.95.36 crores	47.87 crores
2014-15	67.59 lakhs	Rs. 19.50 crores	33.14 lakhs
as on date			

(b) Under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities, financial assistance is provided for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D courses in any recognised University or academic institutions in India. The criteria of providing the Fellowship is that of the candidate, having a Disability Certificate with 40% disability and is pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D. courses in any recognised University Institute in India. Number of beneficiaries in 2012-13 and 2013-14 were 176 and 178 respectively.

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is presently implementing the following two Schemes for award of scholarship to students with disabilities including those pursuing for Higher and Technical education:-

Under the National Scholarship Scheme which is funded from Trust Fund for Empowerment of PwDs financial assistance is provided to students with disabilities to enable them to pursue professional or technical courses from recognized institutes and get

employed/self employed. Under the Scheme every year 1000 scholarships are provided to the students with disabilities through out the country. 30% scholarships are reserved for girls. Only Indian nationals are eligible for scholarships. The number of beneficiaries (including renewal cases) in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are 1000, 1216 and 1969 respectively.

National Fund has a scholarship scheme for students with disabilities. 500 new scholarships to be awarded each year are equally distributed (125 each) for the four major categories of disabilities viz. (i) Orthopaedic (ii) Visual (iii) Hearing and (iv) Others. 40% of the scholarships in each category are reserved for girls. The number of beneficiaries (including renewal cases) in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are 503, 509 and 512 respectively.

(c)&(d)Scholarship Scheme (Trust Fund) for the differently-abled students has been increased from 1000 to 2000 per year from the year 2013-14.

(e)The various welfare schemes have empowered the persons with disabilities in the country especially in the area of education, social and psychological rehabilitation, social security and barrier free environment.