

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4471
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 23.03.2021

Development Schemes for Poor and Houseless Handicapped Persons

4471. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the need for suitable development schemes for poor and houseless handicapped persons and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures being taken by the Government to uplift the poor and houseless handicapped persons, financially and economically; and
- (c) whether the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) has also requested the Government to evolve suitable schemes for development/upliftment of poor and houseless handicapped persons and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI KRISHAN PAL GURJAR)**

(a) and (b) Relief to the persons with disabilities is a State subject by virtue of entry '9' of the State list of the Constitution of India. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments for the welfare of persons with disabilities. The Ministry, in 2014, wrote to States/UTs to frame suitable schemes exclusively to take care of homeless persons with intellectual disabilities to enable them to live a dignified life.

The National Trust for the welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Mental Disabilities, a Statuary Body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), is implementing following schemes with view to providing rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities:

- (i) Samarth (Respite Care Residential Scheme): To provide respite homes for orphans, abandoned, families in crisis and also for persons with disabilities from Below Poverty Line and Low Income Group families including destitute, with at least one of the four disabilities covered under National Trust Act, 1999.
- (ii) Gharaunda (Group Home for Adults Scheme): To provide an assured home and minimum quality care services throughout the life of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities. The scheme also facilitates establishment of requisite infrastructure for the assured care system throughout the country, encourage assisted living with independence and dignity and provide care services on a sustainable basis.

In addition to above, the Department also implements various schemes/projects including through its National Institutes, National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Mental Disabilities, National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India as well as through State Governments/ autonomous bodies/ organizations/institutes and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the welfare and rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) including those poor and homeless.

The Department also implements the National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under which skilling of PwDs is conducted through a network of empanelled training partners comprising Government organizations and non-Governmental organizations.

NHFDC, a Central Public Sector Enterprises under the Department, provides financial assistance in terms of loan to persons with disabilities for starting any activity contributing directly or indirectly in the income generation or helping PwDs in their overall progress of empowerment and higher education through implementing agencies throughout the country.

The Central Government through the Ministry of Rural Development implements the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), a component under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Under this Scheme, central assistance @ 300/- per month is provided to persons aged 18-79 years with severe or multiple disabilities and belonging to the family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by the Government of India. After attaining the age of 80 years, the pension amount is enhanced to Rs.500/- per month.

In addition to the payment of pension under IGNDPS, an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1000/- has also been paid to 7.73 lakh existing beneficiaries of Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme in two equal installments of Rs. 500/- each under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), a special package announced for poor during COVID-19 lockdown.

(c) No, Sir.
