

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4821

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2003

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WELFARE OF DISABLED

VISHNU DEO SAI

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

- (a) the schemes for disabled persons in the country;
- (b) the State-wise population of disabled persons;
- (c) whether there is any proposal relating to setting up a National Commission for the welfare of the people of this section;
- (d) whether the welfare commissioners appointed for the welfare of such people will be appointed from the disabled section or who have experienced the pain of having disability; and
- (e) if not, the criterion fixed for the appointment of welfare commissioners from this section?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is supporting six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which work, inter-alia towards, manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide rehabilitation services, undertake functional research etc. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector undertaking under the aegis of this Ministry manufactures and promotes availability, supply and distribution of quality aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC), set up in 1997, provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities on soft terms for self-employment and income generating activities. Schemes are also under implementation for providing support to non-government organizations running programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The Government has also taken initiatives for ensuring wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Over hundred districts have been identified for setting up District Centers with the objective of providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. Schemes are also under implementation for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities. Besides, the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) scheme has been approved in the State sector for creating infrastructure at State/District/ Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities set up in 2000 extends support to registered organizations to provide need based services during periods of crises in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians.

(b) Information on population of disabled persons, as per the NSSO survey, 1991 is given in Annexure.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e) Section 57 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 empowers the Central Government to appoint a Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. This Section also stipulates that the Chief Commissioner should have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of matters relating to rehabilitation. Similar provisions are also made in respect of appointment of Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in States. Persons with Disabilities can also be considered for these posts provided they are otherwise eligible.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.4821 for 24.4.2003 by Shri Vishnudeo Sai, regarding National Commission for Welfare of Disabled.

State-wise details of physically disabled people as per the survey conducted by NSSO in 1991.

S. No. Name of the State Estimate number of persons with disabilities (in lakhs)

1 Andhra Pradesh 15.72

2 Assam 2.71

3 Bihar 13.61

4 Gujarat 6.95

5 Haryana 3.04

6 Himachal Pradesh 1.40
7 Karnataka 8.76
8 Kerala 5.56
9 Madhya Pradesh 12.87
10 Maharashtra 18.19
11 Orissa 7.20
12 Punjab 5.31
13 Rajasthan 7.23
14 Tamil Nadu 12.36
15 Uttar Pradesh 25.50
16 West Bengal 11.79

All India 161.54

Note: 1 : Figure includes
(i) visual,
(ii) hearing,
(iii) Speech and
(iv) locomotors disability.

Note :2 : For the remaining States/UTs, results are not presented, as the sample size was not considered large enough to provide reliable estimates. However, the results presented at the All-India level include all the States/ UTs. Around 2-3% of children suffered from mental retardation. Figures regarding mentally ill are not known.