

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3739
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
IMPLEMENTATION OF DISABILITIES ACT
P.R. KHUTE;PUNNULAL MOHALE;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

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

- (a) whether the disabled persons are ignored and discriminated in the matter of meeting their basic needs and providing them education and job opportunities despite the implementation of the Disabilities Act;
- (b) if so, the facts therefore;
- (c) names of the States which have not implemented the basic provisions of this Act;
- (d) the action taken by the Government against them; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for proper implementation of the Persons With Disabilities Act, 1955 and National Trust Act, 1999 for the welfare of disabled persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (b) No, Sir. The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities appointed under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1955 has been vested with the powers to take steps to safeguard rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities and also to look into complaints with respect to denial of rights of persons with disabilities, especially relating to non-implementation of laws, rules, bye-laws, regulations, executive orders, guidelines or instructions issued by the Government. If a specific instance is brought to notice, the matter is taken up with the appropriate authorities for redressal of grievance. The Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities appointed in States/Union Territory Administration also takes action in this regard.
- (c) The implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of Central Government, the State Governments and local authorities. The State Governments have by and large taken steps to implement various provisions of the Act.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Information is provided at Annexure.

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.3739 due for answer on 21.8.2003 put up by S/Shri Punnu Lal Mohale, P.R. Khunte and Suresh Ramrao Jadhav regarding 'Implementation of Disabilities Act'.

Action to implement various provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been initiated in the right earnest since its adoption. Existing institutions have been strengthened. New institutions/organizations have been set up and the outlay for the disability sector have been increased substantially since 1995-96. Periodic meetings of Central Coordination Committee, and Central Executive Committee are held to review implementation of the Act. The Ministry, as the nodal Ministry for implementation of various provisions of the Act, has also taken up major issues with the concerned State Governments/U.T. Administrations and Central Ministries/Departments. The Chief Ministers of the States have also been requested to expedite the process of implementation of the Act. After persistent efforts, by now, all States have appointed Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities.

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. A scheme has also been approved for setting up of four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to expand the production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances. 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. Under the Schemes for Promotion of Voluntary Actions for persons with disabilities and Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase and fitting of aids and appliances. (ADIP), grant in aid assistance is released to voluntary organizations for running special education and vocational training

programmes, placement services, shelter workshops, home based services, etc. and for purchase, fabrication and distribution of aids and appliances, respectively.

The Government has taken initiatives for ensuring wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. One hundred and thirty districts have been identified for setting up District Centers with the objective of providing 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 Act, 1999 has been enacted for the welfare of the target group. The National Trust set up in 2000 under the Act extends support to registered organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis 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. Steps are also taken for the welfare and care of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities that include setting up of local level committees to address guardianship issues, providing financial support to run day care, respite care and residential care centers, training of special teachers and home based care givers, establishment of information centers, development and dissemination of information booklets for parents and families, organizing awareness campaigns and seminars, etc.