

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4035
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2005
EDUCATION FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN
Gudhe Shri Anantrao;Sharma Shri Madan Lal

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide free education to the mentally retarded children till they attain the age of 18 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to secure the future of mentally retarded children on their attaining the age of 18 years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.FATMI)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. It is enjoined upon the States/UTs to implement the provisions of the National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, and the provisions of the Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PWD Act 1995) for free education including the vocational education of the disabled children including the mentally retarded till they attain the age of eighteen years. In this connection, this Department has been writing to the State Governments/UT Administrations.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) of this Department, the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of AIDS/Appliances (ADIP Scheme) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Sarva Sikshya Abhiyan (SSA) of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy provide various facilities to the children with disabilities of various categories including the mentally retarded children.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is supporting Vocational Training Centres run by NGOs. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has set up Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Persons with Disabilities where persons with disabilities are provided vocational training. For self-employment of People with Disabilities including mentally retarded person, the National Handicapped Finance and Development Cooperation provides loans at low rates of interest. Apart from this, the PWD Act, under section 39, provides 3% reservation in admission in educational institutions for persons with disabilities. The Comprehensive Action Plan (announced by HRM on 21.3.05 in Rajya Sabha) envisages a revised Scheme for Inclusive Education for Children and Youth With Disability (IECYD) providing for various facilities to disabled children including the mentally retarded even beyond the age of 18 years to identify suitable trades and training institutions for vocational education for the disabled.