

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:127

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005

WELFARE OF DISABLED

Baitha Shri Kailash;Paswan Shri Virchandra

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that Persons with Disabilities (PWD) are discriminated in the area of education, employment, public transportation and access to public buildings and services in all walks of life;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 in letter and spirit for the benefit of large number of disabled in the country; and

(c) the details of other measures taken for the welfare of PWD for prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment, social security and non-discrimination?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MEIRA KUMAR)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.127 for answer on 1.12.2005 put up by S/Shri Virchandra Paswan and Kailash Baitha regarding Welfare of Disabled.

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) Various provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 are implemented through a multisector collaborative approach by Ministries/ Departments concerned both at Centre and State levels. The major steps taken for implementation of the Act include -

(i) Central Coordination and Executives Committees at the Centre and State Coordination and Executive Committees in all the States have been constituted.

(ii) Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at the Centre and Commissioners, Disabilities in all the states have been appointed.

(iii) Medical and para-medical staff and Aanganwadi workers are being trained on prevention and early detection of disabilities.

(iii) Awareness about inclusive education is being created. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been promoting inclusive education. Seventeen lakh children with disabilities have been enrolled in integrated schools.

(iv) Reservation of 3% seats for Persons with Disabilities in Government/ Government aided educational institutions is being enforced.

(v) Reservation of 3% vacancies for persons with disabilities in identified posts, is being enforced in the Central and State Govt. organizations.

(vi) Reservation of 3% in all the poverty alleviation schemes is being done in most States.

(vii) Special schools for children with severe disabilities have been established or are being assisted by Central/ State Governments to facilitate education of children with disabilities.

(viii) Eight States have identified posts in all the Groups for persons with disabilities. eight States have identified posts in C & D categories. All the six U.Ts follow Central list.

(ix) Eleven States and three U.Ts have made provision for reservation or for preference in allotment of land for houses, setting up of business etc.

(x) Medical Boards have been constituted in most of the States and Union Territories.

(xi) Nine States and four U.Ts have provision for unemployment allowance/pension for persons with disabilities.

(xii) Six States and one Union Territory have reported adoption of Model Building Bye Laws containing provisions for barrier free built environment for persons with disabilities. Four hundred and thirty eight urban local bodies in these States/ UT have also adopted these bye laws.

(xiii) Instructions have been issued to all the executing agencies e.g., Public Works Departments of States/UTs, National Highways Authority of India (NHA) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) etc. to make necessary arrangements for adopting barrier free features on the roads constructed/maintained by them

(xiv) The facility of Signages for persons with disabilities is being provided at A category and important railway stations.

(c) The following measures are taken: -

(i) Immunization programmes for children and pregnant women are undertaken to prevent disabilities. Supporting staff of various programmes are provided necessary training for prevention and early detection of disabilities.

(ii) Children who are not able to participate in the inclusive education system have various options including special schools, home-based education, open learning etc.

(iii) Five hundred scholarships for students with disabilities for pursuing professional and technical courses at post matric levels are being supported through the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities

(iv) To promote employment for persons with disabilities, vocational training is provided through Vocational Rehabilitation Centres and Vocational Training Centres.

(v) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation extends loans at concessional rate of interest to persons with disabilities for self-employment ventures.

(vi) Training of personnel for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities is being taken up by seven National Institutes set up in the disability sector,

(vii) The Rehabilitation Council of India, a statutory authority regulates and monitors the training of Rehabilitation professionals and personnel, promotes research in rehabilitation and special education.

(viii) The National Trust for Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is implementing Supported Guardianship Scheme and Day Care Centre for the target group.

(ix) One hundred twenty District Disability Rehabilitation Centres and four Composite Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to provide rehabilitation services at the grass root level.

(x) Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) manufactures aids and appliances for persons with disabilities.

(xi) Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase and fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP) provides for free and at concessional rates, aids and appliances to the poor and needy persons with disabilities.

(xii) Specified income tax concessions are available to persons with disabilities and to their families. So far, Income Tax department required a disability certificate in its prescribed format for getting income tax concessions. Since this led to inconvenience to the disabled persons, that department has now agreed to accept the disability certificate issued under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

(xiii) Concession in Custom duty is available for import of certain aids and appliances. Concession is also available in excise duties for manufacture of certain items.

(xiv) Concession is available to certain categories of persons with disabilities in air, rail and bus fares.