

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:419  
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006  
CONCESSIONS FACILITIES TO HANDICAPPED PERSONS  
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.

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

- (a) the details of the concessions/facilities provided to the physically handicapped persons;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to constitute Committees at the State/District levels to identify physically handicapped persons in need of support; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**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 the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.419 for answer on 24/08/2006 put forth by Shri S. Ajaya Kumar, regarding `Concessions/facilities to Handicapped Persons`.

(a) The following concessions/facilities are to be provided to the persons with disabilities: -

Concessions under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995

1. 3% Reservation in employment in the establishments of the Government of India and the State governments.
2. 3% Reservation in admission to educational institutions receiving aid from the Government.
3. 3% Reservation in poverty alleviation schemes
4. Unemployment allowance is provided by most of the State Governments/UT Administrations.
5. Preferential allotment of land by the Central/State Governments at concessional rate for the purposes of (a) housing; (b) setting up business; (c) setting up of special recreation centers; (d) establishment of special schools; (e) establishment of research centers and (f) establishment of factories by entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Concession/facilities from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1. Assistive devices are provided to needy persons with disabilities free of cost or at concessional rates.
2. Seven National Institutes are developing manpower for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and are also providing rehabilitation & therapeutic services.
3. One hundred twenty six District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, Five Composite Rehabilitation Centres and Four Regional Rehabilitation Centres are providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities.
4. The National Trust for Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is providing financial support to families who are willing to look after the health and livelihood needs of destitute and abandoned children with severe mental and multiple disabilities.
5. National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation provides soft loans for self-employment ventures.
6. Scholarships for 500 students with disabilities are being provided every year.
7. Five hundred forty Special Schools, 214 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) and 223 other projects for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, run by non-governmental organizations, are being provided financial assistance.

Concessions and facilities provided by other Central Government Ministries, State Governments/UT Administrations

1. Income tax concession is admissible under section 80 U (for the assessee himself who is a person with disability or severe disability) and section 80 DD (expenditure incurred by the assessee on the medical treatment, training and rehabilitation of a dependent person with disability/ severely disability). The threshold limit for men taxpayer is Rs.1.50 lakh for disability and Rs.1.75 lakh for severe disability. For women taxpayers, the threshold limit is Rs.1.85 lakhs for disability and Rs.2.10 lakh for severe disability. In case of senior citizens, no income tax is payable on an income of Rs.2.35 lakh, if he/she is disabled and Rs.2.60 lakh if he/she is severely disabled.

2. Custom duty and Excise duty exemption on aids and appliances viz. talking books, Braille computer terminals, Braille writers and type-writers, assistive listening devices, cochlear implants and stair lifts, crutches, wheel chairs, walking frames, artificial limbs, etc.
  
3. Concessional travel in rail (75% for persons with blindness, locomotor disability and mental retardation and 50% for deaf & dumb persons).
  
4. 50% Concession in the airfare for travel by Indian airlines for persons with blindness and persons with 80% and above locomotor disability.
  
5. Concessional bus passes in State run buses (free bus passes to blind and concessional rate for other disabled persons).
  
6. Transport allowance for disabled employees at double the rate admissible to other employees
  
7. Allotment of STD/Handicapped PCO telephone booths - 25% reservation is provided for persons with disabilities by Railways.
  
8. Concessional telephone connections to blind persons.
  
9. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has a goal of eight years of elementary schooling for all children in the group of 6-14 years by 2010. All children with special needs upto 18 years of age are also covered under the SSA.
  
10. Under the Scheme of Integrated Education of the Disabled Children (IEDC) 100 percent financial assistance is provided to the Education Department of the State Governments, Autonomous Bodies and Voluntary Organizations for various facilities like special teachers, books and stationery, uniform etc.
  
11. Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) are imparting non-formal training and skill-training programmes to persons with disabilities. They also provide vocational guidance and career counseling on the opportunities available for taking up self-employment.
  
12. Reservation in allotment of flats/shops by some State Governments/UT Administration.

13. Disability pension is provided by some of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b)&(c) State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are required to constitute Medical Boards at district level for certification of persons with disabilities.