

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:272

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017

Empowerment of Differently Abled Persons

Adhikari,Shri,Dibyendu;Sahu Shri Tamradhwaj

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme towards empowerment of differently abled persons in the country and if so, the details and the status of implementation of such schemes, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up old age homes for the differently abled persons and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total funds allocated, released and the actual expenditure incurred for the empowerment of these persons during each of the last three years and the current year along with the projection of financial resources for the next three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to facilitate/empower the differently abled persons so as to enable them to earn their livelihood with dignity; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the efforts made so far in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 272 for 21.03.2017 asked by Shri Dibendu Adhikari and Shri Tamradhwaj Sahu regarding Empowerment of Differently abled Persons.

(a) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Department has formulated following major schemes towards empowerment of differently abled persons in the country for the upliftment of differently abled persons. The statement showing Scheme/programme-wise BE RE and expenditure for the last three years and BE 2017-18 is at Annexure - I

(i) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, namely, Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) under which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) running projects for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) aimed at enabling to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels. The State/UTs wise Notional Allocation and funds utilized under DDRS during the last three years and current year (As on 09.03.2017) is at Annexure II.

(ii) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP).

Under ADIP Scheme the funds are released to various Implementing Agencies to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential. Details of funds released and utilized under ADIP scheme, state-wise is given at Annexure-III.

(iii) Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA)

Under the scheme, Grant-in-aid is provided to State Governments and various bodies set up by the Central and State Government, particularly relating to rehabilitation and provision of barrier-free access. Funds under the Scheme are also released for skill training programme for Persons with disabilities. Funding to Composite Regional Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres are also released under this Scheme. Details of funds released and utilized under ADIP scheme, state-wise is given at Annexure-IV.

(iv) District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs):

DDRCs were started as an outreach activity of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for providing comprehensive services to the persons with disabilities at the grass root level and for facilitating creation of the infrastructure and capacity building at the District level for awareness generation, rehabilitation and training of rehabilitation professionals.

(v) Scholarship schemes:

The Ministry provides scholarship schemes for students with disabilities such as Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education and National Fellowship Schemes. The objectives of the schemes are to provide financial assistance to the students with disabilities for studying in pre-matric, post matric and Post Graduate courses in some Institutes of Excellence as notified in the scheme. The State-wise details for Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education and National Fellowship Schemes are at Annexure V(a), Annexure V(b), Annexure V(c) and Annexure V(d), respectively.

(vi) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is providing financial assistance in the form of concessional loans to the persons with disabilities for self-employment and higher education.

(vii) National Trust has been implementing schemes for providing support to the PWDs suffering from autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities to enable them to lead independent life.

(viii) In addition, 7 National Institutes namely National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD),

Dehradun, National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad, Ali Yavar Jung National Institutes of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai, National Institute for the Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata, Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD), New Delhi and National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai along with their extended arms, Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) and Regional Centres (RCs) provide rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities. Under DDRS, grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for their projects aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels. Details of funds allocated and released to National Institutes under Plan head during last three years is at Annexure VI.

As far as projections of financial resources for next three years is concerned, the allocation of Budget is an annual exercise carried out in consultations with the Finance Ministry; and hence it is not possible to finalize the projections for the next three years at this stage.

(b) : At present, there is no Scheme in this Ministry for setting up of old age homes. However, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment of this Ministry implements a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) under which grants are given for running and maintenance of old age homes, day care centres, mobile Medicare units etc for the older destitute. The main objective of the scheme is to improve the quality of life of older persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities, etc. Implementing agencies eligible for assistance under the scheme are Panchayati Raj institutions/local bodies, non-government voluntary organizations, institutions or organizations set up by Government as autonomous/subordinate bodies, Government recognized educational institutions, charitable hospitals/nursing homes, and recognized youth organisations such as Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and in exceptional cases the State Governments/UT administrations. Grants-in-aid is also admissible to the NGOs for running old age homes, for differently abled persons under the scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons.

(d) and (e) : The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 mandates every appropriate Government to appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than three per cent for persons or class of persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from-(i) Blindness or low vision;(ii) Hearing impairment;(iii) Loco motor disability or cerebral palsy.

The Government has also recently notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 on 28.12.2016. The new Act provides for more entitlements for persons with disabilities including increased reservation in vacancies in Government jobs from 3% to 4% for certain persons or class of persons with benchmark disability.

Further, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the National Action Plan (NAP) for skill training of persons with disabilities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 21st March 2015. In order to implement NAP, a panel of Empanelled Training Partners (ETPs) has been prepared comprising 202 organizations including 14 Govt. Organizations and 188 Voluntary Organizations (VOs). So far, an amount of Rs.86.65 lakhs has been released to 10 ETPs (7 Govt. and 3 NGO) for skill development of 2840 PwDs.

Apart from these Empanelled Training Partners (ETPs) skilling of PwDs is also being done through 7 National Institutes (NIs), National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC - a PSU under DEPwD) and Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) run by Voluntary Organizations as a part of Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme. The performance of Nation Action Plan for skill training of persons with disabilities is at Annexure VII.

National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) is a Not for Profit Company incorporated on 24th January, 1997 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, and is working as an Apex Corporation for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). NHFDC considers concessional loans to Indian Citizens with 40% or more disability and age above 18 years. There is no upper age limit for PwDs to avail concessional loan from NHFDC. The progress, made by the Corporation in last 3 financial years is at Annexure VIII.

The new Act, under Section 35, also mandates appropriate Government and the local authorities, within the limit of their economic capacity and development, to provide incentives to employer in private sector to ensure that at least five percentage of their work force is composed of persons with benchmark disability.

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