

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES(DIVYANGJAN)
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2714
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2021**

‘Surgery cost for cochlear implants’

2714.SHRI BRIJLAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that it is important to get cochlear implants for the children who are hearing and speaking impaired since birth but parents are not able to get this operation done due to its higher cost and the child has to live a life of deaf and dumb person;
- (b) whether Government is considering any scheme in order to reduce the expenses of this surgery;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the percentage of deaf and dumb people employed in Government jobs till date?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a) to (c) Cochlear Implant surgery and post operative rehabilitation and care have been found to be extremely beneficial for children with hearing and speech impairment since birth. In view of the high cost of the Cochlear Implant device, surgery and post surgical rehabilitation, the Government of India launched the Cochlear implant program as part of the ‘Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)’ Scheme in 2014, under which there is a provision of Cochlear Implant for 500 children per year with a cost ceiling of Rs. 6.00 lakh per child to be borne by the Government. So far, 2926 children with hearing and speech impairment have benefitted from Cochlear Implant under the ADIP Scheme. At present, there is no scheme under consideration to reduce the expenses of this surgery.

(d) The Department of Personnel and Training (DOP&T), Government of India has informed that as on 01.01.2020, in respect of 45 Ministries/Departments for which information is available with them, there are 2928 employees with hearing and speech impairment out of a total of 1794053, representing .16% of personnel employed.
