GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2055
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 03.08.2022

SCHEMES FOR PWD

2055: SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

(a) the details of the new schemes formulated by Government for welfare of persons with disabilities (PwD);

(b) the funds allocated by Government to various States for the welfare of PwD during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken, or being taken by Government to increase employment opportunities for PwD in the country?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a) Relief to the persons with disabilities is a State subject by virtue of entry '9' of the State List of the Constitution of India. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments for empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry is implementing various Central Sector Schemes namely Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (since 1999), Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (since 2005), Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (since 1999) and Scholarship for Students with Disabilities (since 2012-13). There are following six components under the Scholarship Schemes:

i. Pre-matric Scholarship for SwDs (since 2014-15);
ii. Post-matric Scholarships for SwDs (since 2014-15);
iii. Scholarship for Top Class Education for SwDs (since 2015-16);
iv. National Overseas Scholarship (since 2014-15);
v. National Fellowship for PwDs (since 2012-13), and
vi. Free Coaching for SwD (since 2017-18).

Major Components of Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) are:

i. Creation of Barrier Free Environment for PwDs (since 1998-99),
ii. National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs (since 2013-14),
iii. Accessible India Campaign (since 2016-17),

iv. Unique Disability Identity Card (since 2014-15),

In addition, National Trust, a statutory body under the Department and set up in 2000 under the National Trust for the welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities Act, 1999 implements the following major schemes for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities:

(i) Disha (Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme for 0-10 years) (since 2015-16)
(ii) VIKAAS (Day Care Scheme for 10+ years) (since 2015-16)
(iii) Disha-cum Vikaas Scheme (Day Care) (since 2018-19)
(iv) Samarth (Respite Care Residential Scheme) (since 2015-16)
(v) Gharaunda (Group Home for Adults) (since 2015-16)
(vi) Samarth-cum-Gharaunda Scheme (Residential) (since 2018-19)
(vii) 'Niramaya' Health Insurance Scheme (since 2015-16)

(b) All the schemes being implemented by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry are Central Sector Schemes under which no State-wise allocation of funds is made.

(c) The Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 which came into force on 19.04.2017. Section 34 of the said Act provides for not less than 4% reservation in Government vacancies for following categories of persons with benchmark disabilities (disability of 40% or more):

(i)	blindness and low vision	1%
(ii)	deaf and hard of hearing	1%
(iii)	locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy;	1%
(iv)	autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness;	1%
(v)	multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (i) to (iv) including deaf- blindness.	

In order to implement the provision of reservation in Government employment envisaged under the RPwD Act, 2016, the Ministry notified the list of 3566 posts (1046 in Group A, 515 in Group B, 1724 in Group C and 281 in Group D) suitable for various categories of persons with benchmark disabilities on 04.01.2021.

Further, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) implements the National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (between the age group of 15 to 59 years) with a view to enhancing their scope of employability in both public and private sectors besides promoting self-employment. To promote entrepreneurship among PwDs, financial assistance in terms of loan on subsidized rates is provided by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise of the Department, under Divyangjan Swavalamban Yojna. NHFDC has also set up a Job Portal (www.disabilityjobs.gov.in) through which persons with disabilities can apply for jobs, skill trainings, education loans and self employment loans.

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