

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1732
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2022

UPLIFTMENT OF DIVYANGJANS

1732. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:
SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry to uplift the Divyangjans;
- (b) total budget spent by the Ministry for upliftment for Divyangjan in the country;
- (c) whether the Ministry plans to do structural audit of public places to check them for being Divyangjan friendly;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) steps taken by the Ministry in last five years to make public places accessible to Digvangjans, details thereof;
- (f) whether Government plans to have a separate Ministry of Divyangjans for better implementation of policies; and
- (g) whether the Ministry plans to support Divyangjans by giving them monthly pensions for their survival, if not, reasons therefor?

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 the welfare of persons with disabilities. The details of major schemes of this Department for welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) implemented throughout the country are as under:

(i) **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP):** Under ADIP Scheme, funds are released to various implementing agencies to assist needy persons with disabilities 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 enhancing their economic potential.

(ii) **Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA):** Under this Scheme, assistance is provided to State Governments and autonomous organizations/ Institutions under Central or State Governments/ various implementing agencies for various activities relating to the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Major Components of Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) are:

1. Creation of Barrier Free Environment for PwDs
2. National Action Plan for Skill Development
3. Accessible India Campaign (AIC)

4. Unique Disability Identity Card

(iii) **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):** Under the Scheme grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for their projects relating to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, aimed at enabling them to reach and maintain their optimal physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels.

(iv) **Scholarship schemes for students with disabilities:** Under this Scheme, the Government provides scholarships for students with disabilities such as Pre-matric (for classes IX & X), Post-matric (from class XI up to Post Graduate degree/diploma level), Top Class Education (Post graduate degree/diploma in notified Institutes), National Fellowship (M.Phil and PhD courses), National Overseas Scholarship (for Overseas education at P.G./Doctorate level).

(b) The details of actual expenditure spent by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) during last three years is as under:-

Year	Actual Expenditure (Rs. In crores)
2019-20	1016.18
2020-21	861.63
2021-22	1009.45

(c) and (d) The Department of Empowerment of persons with disabilities (DEPwD) is not planning any structural audit of public places. However, as far as accessibility of public places for PwDs is concerned, the owner of the buildings or concerned State Government(s) may conduct accessibility audit(s) of their premises through empanelled access auditors of Central Public Works Department (CPWD)/DEPwD.

(e) During the past five years; under the Accessible India Campaign, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) has released funds to State/UT Governments to make 1314 State/UT Govt. owned buildings and 20 States/UTs have reported retrofitting completion in 600 buildings. Further, the Department has released funds to State/UT Governments, Statutory or Autonomous Bodies to provide accessible facilities in 776 buildings for the convenience of persons with disabilities during past five years under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment sub-scheme of the Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

(f) The Government created Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) as a separate department in May, 2012 under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with a view to give focused attention to issues concerning inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities (PwDs). As such, there is no proposal for creation of any separate Ministry for Divyangjan.

(g) At the Central Government level, Ministry of Rural Development, under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme of National Social Assistance Programme monthly pension at the rate of Rs.300/- per month to disabled persons in the age group of 18 to 79 years belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households is being paid. The amount of pension is increased to Rs. 500/-per month in respect of these beneficiaries on reaching the age 'of 80 years and above.
