GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 47
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JULY, 2023

CHALLENGES FACED BY MENTALLY RETARDED AND DISABLED CHILDREN

47 SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has information about mentally retarded and disabled children in the country, if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has tried to find out the reasons for such disability, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is doing anything for the future of such children whose lives are very challenging because most of such children are deprived of many facilities including education; and

(d) the details of facilities being provided to these children by Government?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a)   As per Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), the data of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) enrolled in Government schools during 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 is placed at Annexure –I.

(b)   As per the study entitled "Neurodevelopmental disorders in children aged 2–9 years: Population-based burden estimates across five regions in India" jointly carried-out by AIIMS New Delhi, Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi, Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital, Delhi and other academic institutions, the risk factors for Neuro Developmental Disorders (NDDs) in children (2-9 years) are Non-institutional delivery, History of perinatalasphyxia, Neonatal illness (requiring Hospitalization), Postnatal neurological/brain infections, Stunting and Low birth weight (<2.5kgs)/ Prematurity (Gestation<37 weeks).

(c) & (d) The Central Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016). Chapter III of the RPwD Act, 2016 deals with measures for promoting and facilitating inclusive education for children with disabilities (including children with intellectual disabilities) to have access to free education up to 18 years of age in a special school or in a neighboured school as per their choice.

Under Ministry of Education, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha has dedicated inclusive education component for the education of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) with one or more disabilities, including visual impairment. Under the scheme, facilities like Braille books, Braille kit, Low Vision treatment, Hearing aid, Braces, Crutches, Wheel Chair, Tri-cycle, Calipers are provided to Children with Special Needs.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Ministry of Education also provides following facilities to children with disabilities:

i.   Facilities like ramps in toilets, at entry/exit points for wheelchair users and auditory signals in elevators/lifts in accordance with the provisions laid down in RPWD Act- 2016.

ii.   Appointment of Special Educator in Schools as per the minimum requirements laid down by Rehabilitation Council of India.

iii.   Organize workshops and training programs for teachers to sensitize them towards the needs of diverse learners. Teachers are trained to adopt inclusive teaching methods and create individualized education plans (IEPs) for students with special needs.

iv.   Provide various examination accommodations for students with disabilities, such as extra time, use of a scribe or option to use computer. The Board provides relaxations in all the benchmark disabilities in the Board examinations (classes X and XII) (RPWD Act-2016).

The major schemes under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are mentioned below:

i.   Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)
ii.   Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) provides grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisations for running model projects on special schools with residential facilities for the persons intellectual disabilities.
iii. Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA)
iv.   National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation (Intellectual Disability) and Multiple Disabilities
v.   Scholarship schemes
vi.   National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with disabilities
vii. Cross Disability Early Intervention Centers (CDEIC) to support infants and young children (0-6 years) at-risk of disabilities or with disabilities to improve their physical, sensory and cognitive abilities.

Under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) aims to improve the quality of life of children and provide comprehensive care to children in the community. The program involves screening of children from birth to 18 years of age for '4Ds'- Defects at birth, Development Delays, Deficiencies and Diseases, spanning 32 common health conditions for early detection, free treatment and management, including surgeries at tertiary level.

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	CWSN Enrollment in Government Schools								
	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Andaman & Nicobar Island	319	184	503	370	209	579	320	192	512
Andhra Pradesh	57736	44215	101951	50936	37316	88252	52733	39510	92243
Arunachal Pradesh	1459	1547	3006	1511	1684	3195	1349	1638	2987
Assam	32314	28966	61280	31422	27343	58765	29973	24240	54213
Bihar	84144	66472	150616	78735	62332	141067	105902	71825	177727
Chandigarh	2742	1709	4451	2129	1329	3458	2232	1486	3718
Chhattisgarh	19463	16624	36087	36495	31029	67524	42557	34539	77096
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1216	1159	2375	1309	1175	2484	703	470	1173
Daman and Diu	143	114	257						
Delhi	17201	12597	29798	16120	12049	28169	14881	11385	26266
Goa	1528	920	2448	1295	794	2089	2325	1304	3629
Gujarat	54377	38372	92749	47889	33514	81403	44479	28887	73366
Haryana	18221	12728	30949	14991	10642	25633	15382	10072	25454
Himachal Pradesh	4793	4296	9089	3669	3036	6705	3679	3013	6692
Jammu & Kashmir	13319	10310	23629	12312	8977	21289	10489	7457	17946
Jharkhand	30837	26275	57112	28218	24416	52634	28120	23147	51267
Karnataka	60978	46467	107445	55927	42075	98002	56115	42068	98183
Kerala	88402	60523	148925	81787	56278	138065	82374	54510	136884
Ladakh	359	395	754	258	272	530	441	465	906
Lakshadweep	147	102	249	162	104	266	122	82	204
Madhya Pradesh	61352	49682	111034	67203	54028	121231	78090	60503	138593
Maharashtra	177999	129929	307928	160593	116223	276816	151680	105468	257148
Manipur	2353	2111	4464	2294	2076	4370	2400	2171	4571
Meghalaya	2377	1841	4218	2441	2014	4455	2317	1761	4078
Mizoram	2123	1938	4061	2021	2142	4163	1868	2036	3904
Nagaland	1446	1363	2809	1099	963	2062	1884	1748	3632
Odisha	56970	42156	99126	58685	44373	103058	84034	62330	146364
Puducherry	1952	1811	3763	907	749	1656	1211	1047	2258
Punjab	39691	29759	69450	37857	27699	65556	36675	27526	64201
Rajasthan	59953	43275	103228	48717	34647	83364	47627	32913	80540
Sikkim	573	406	979	855	611	1466	711	477	1188
Tamil Nadu	98125	66292	164417	96496	65037	161533	93078	62474	155552
Telangana	23678	19994	43672	23616	19600	43216	22111	17626	39737
Tripura	2619	1973	4592	2114	1556	3670	2278	1625	3903
Uttar Pradesh	174912	133262	308174	180444	136452	316896	191152	135441	326593
Uttarakhand	3296	2647	5943	2984	2244	5228	2771	2165	4936
West Bengal	82444	65142	147586	82779	67502	150281	84765	67927	152692
INDIA	**1281561**	**967556**	**2249117**	**1236640**	**932490**	**2169130**	**1298828**	**941528**	**2240356**
Source: **https://dashboard.udiseplus.gov.in/#/home**									

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