

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2381
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023

PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

2381 # SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of *Social Justice and Empowerment* be pleased to state:

- (a) schemes being implemented by the Ministry for the development and rehabilitation of children with disabilities below the age of 12 years in the country, especially in tribal and tribal-dominated areas of Jharkhand, the details thereof;
- (b) schemes and efforts being made to create awareness in the society regarding the protection of the rights of divyang children;
- (c) the details thereof; and
- (d) special efforts being made to encourage primary education of such children, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a) to (d): Relief to the disabled is a State subject by virtue of entry 9 of the State List of the Constitution of India. The Government enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 which came into force on 19.04.2017. The said Act provides for inclusive education under Sections 16 & 17 and free education for children with benchmark (40% or more) disabilities under Section 31. However, the Central government supplements the efforts of the State governments for the welfare of persons with disabilities. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under the Ministry implements a central sector scheme, namely Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS). Under this scheme, grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for running various projects for the welfare of persons with disabilities (PwDs) including the children with disabilities below the age of 12 years. The scheme is applicable to all the States/UTs in the country including in tribal and tribal dominated areas of Jharkhand. Details of model projects supported under the DDRS Scheme for the development and rehabilitation of children with disabilities is at **Annexure-I**.

The Department is implementing the Scheme of 'Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)' under which funds are released to various Implementing Agencies to assist the eligible persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) and Children

with Special Needs(CWSN) 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 throughout the country including Jharkhand. Under the ADIP Scheme, there are following provisions for Children with special Needs(CWSN) throughout the country including Jharkhand:

(i) Aids and assistive devices are also distributed to school going children with special needs under the provision of ADIP- SSA (Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan).

(ii) Cochlear Implant and post operative therapy and rehabilitation for children with Hearing Impairment with a ceiling of Rs. 7.00 lakh per unit (to be borne by the Government) in case of children with pre-lingual hearing loss between 1 to 5 years of age, and Rs.6.00 Lakh in case of children with acquired hearing loss between 5 to 18 years.

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on 17.06.2021 has launched single-window, Cross Disability Early Intervention Centres (CDEICs) in its various National Institutes (NIs) and CRCs to give focused attention to children in the age bracket of 0-6 years. The CDEICs are equipped to provide the following services:

- i. Screening and Identification
 - a. Facilities for identification of risk cases
 - b. Referring for appropriate rehabilitative services

- ii. Therapeutic Services
 - a. Speech Therapy
 - b. Occupational Therapy
 - c. Physiotherapy

- iii. Counseling
 - a. Parental Counseling
 - b. Peer Counseling

- iv. School Readiness
 - a. Communication & Language Development
 - b. Physical Development
 - c. Personal, Social & Emotional Development

At present 20 CDEICs have been approved in National Institutes and Composite Regional Centre. The details of CDEICs is at **Annexure-II**

There are nine National Institutes (NIs) working under the Ministry specializing in different kinds of disabilities. The main objectives of these Institutes are to conduct various courses in the field of disabilities, to provide rehabilitation services to Persons with Disabilities and to undertake Research and Development. Out of 09 National Institutes (NIs), 03 NIs running special schools, which details is as follows:-

National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad is running Special Education Centre for Children with Intellectual Disabilities at its Headquarters, Secunderabad and its Regional Centres at NOIDA, Navi Mumbai and Kolkata, besides, running a Model Special Education Centre at NOIDA.

National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) is running a Senior Secondary Model School (from Class Nursery to Class 12th.) for the Children with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan) at Dehradun, Uttarakhand affiliated with CBSE.

National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai runs a Model School with categories of children having multiple disabilities.

The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation (Intellectual Disability) and Multiple Disabilities, an autonomous body under this Department is implementing the following schemes for children with disabilities below the age of 12 years belonging to the 4 categories of disabilities in the domain of National Trust:-

- I. Disha (Early Intervention and School Readiness) scheme for 0-10 years of age.
- II. Vikaas (Day Care) scheme for 10+ years of age.
- III. Samarth (Respite Care) scheme for all age group
- IV. Niramaya- Health Insurance scheme for all age group

The National Trust through its over 500 Registered Organizations (ROs) in the country in the course of its activities is regularly making efforts to create awareness in the society regarding the protection of the rights of divyang children. In the course of its activities, the National Trust endeavors to create awareness in the society regarding the protection of the rights of divyang children about Early Intervention, Skill Development/ Vocational Training, Government schemes/ activities and UDID Card scheme. Virtual Meetings with all Registered Organizations are being conducted on these key areas periodically associating eminent persons and professionals as Resource Persons. The National Trust is implementing Disha (Early Intervention and School Readiness) scheme and Vikaas (Day Care) scheme to provide necessary training to these children and their parents. 112 such Disha and Vikaas centres are functioning in the country.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2381 for answer on 09.08.2023

Model projects under DDRS

- i. **Project for Cross Disability Pre-School and Early Intervention with Provision for Home-Based Rehabilitation & Community-Based Rehabilitation Project:**

The primary objective is to prepare the children with all types of disabilities upto 6 years of age for their schooling in special schools and/or integration at the appropriate stage in regular schools for inclusive education and to do early intervention to try and reduce the disability burden.

- ii. **Special School for the Children with Hearing Disability with Option for Home-Based Rehabilitation/Community-Based Rehabilitation:**

In the special education for the children with hearing disability, the emphasis is on development of language and communication skills and academics. The basic objective of the special education for this Model Project is to assist the children with hearing disability to lead as normal a life as possible through education.

- iii. **Special Schools for the Children with Visual Disability (including Deafblindness) with Option for Home-Based Rehabilitation /Community-Based Rehabilitation & Center for Low Vision:**

In the special education for the children with visual disability, the main thrust is on communication skills and development of other sensory abilities, the end objective is to integrate these students in regular institutions of learning and society in general.

- iv. **Special School for the Children with other Disabilities (Intellectual Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Multiple Disabilities, Muscular Dystrophy, Deafblindness, etc) with option for Home-Based Rehabilitation/Community-Based Rehabilitation:**

The Special Schools are meant to provide for residential as well as non-residential care with the end objective of bringing about varying degrees of improvement in the lives of the persons with disability. These may range from acquiring skills as basic as activities of daily living to their integration into regular institutions of learning and society in general.

- v. **Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons (LCPS) with Option for Home-Based Rehabilitation & Community-Based Rehabilitation Project:**

The basic aim of this project is to empower leprosy cured persons with skills to enable them to improve their socio-economic condition. The projects can include vocational training units and homes (only for severely disabled).

vi. **Half Way Home for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation of Treated and Controlled Persons with Mental Illness with Option for Home-Based Rehabilitation & Community-Based Rehabilitation Project:**

The objective of this project is to provide a facilitating mechanism for rehabilitation, of treated and controlled persons with mental illness to be able to get integrated into normal life within a reasonable period of time.

vii. **Preparatory/Remediation Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities to continue Inclusive Education Project:**

Through this project, the children with learning disabilities will be identified early and supported adequately to learn the lagging concepts and enabled to continue the inclusive education.

viii. **Cross-Disability Therapy and Counseling Center:**

The Project for cross-disability therapy and counseling is to assist children and adults with any type of disability (as specified in RPwD Act, including Acid-Attack victims) for their therapeutic or counseling needs.

ANNEXURE -II

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2381
for answer on 09.08.2023**

List of Cross Disability Early Intervention Centres

- i. Swami Vivekanand National Institute of the Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack
- ii. National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata
- iii. Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD), Delhi
- iv. National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad
- v. National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai
- vi. National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun
- vii. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai
- viii. Composite Regional Centre, Guwahati
- ix. Composite Regional Centre, Bolangir
- x. Composite Regional Centre, Ranchi
- xi. Composite Regional Centre, Patna
- xii. Composite Regional Centre, Lucknow
- xiii. Composite Regional Centre, Srinagar
- xiv. Composite Regional Centre, Nellore
- xv. Composite Regional Centre, Rajnandgaon
- xvi. Composite Regional Centre, Davangere
- xvii. Composite Regional Centre, Kozhikode
- xviii. Composite Regional Centre, Sundernagar
- xix. Composite Regional Centre, Bhopal
- xx. Composite Regional Centre, Ahemdabad
