

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1241**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023

**AWARENESS ABOUT DISABILITY RIGHTS**

**1241. SHRI JAGGESH:**  
**SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB:**  
**SMT. SEEMA DWIVEDI:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is making education and employment more accessible to people with disabilities (PWD);
- (b) the details of schemes for making education and employment more accessible to people with disabilities; and?
- (c) whether steps are being taken by Government to raise awareness about disability rights; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): Sir, to make education more accessible, UGC has prepared “Accessibility Guidelines and Standards for Higher Education Institutions and Universities” and AICTE has prepared ‘AICTE Guidelines for inclusive education for all including persons with disabilities’ for implementation in all Higher Educational Institutions in the best interest of Divyjangjan.

Further, Department of School Education & Literacy has launched an overarching programme for the school education sector- Samagra Shiksha Scheme. Under Samagra Siksha, there is a dedicated component for Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs (IE for CwSN), to ensure full equity and inclusion such that all children with special needs are able to fully participate in schools. The scheme aims to look at education of CwSN in a continuum from pre-school to class XII. The scheme covers all CwSN with one or more disabilities as mentioned in the Schedule of disabilities of the Right of the Person with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The Samagra Shiksha Scheme is being implemented through State Governments/ UT administrations and the Central Government provides necessary financial support for the same.

Through the inclusive education for CwSN component, various provisions are made available for CwSN such as identification and assessment camps (at block level), student specific interventions @ Rs. 3500/- per CwSN per annum for support, such as provision of aids, appliances, assistive devices, teaching-learning material, Braille books, large print with severe & multiple disabilities who are unable to attend school. The focus of Samagra Siksha is on providing inclusive education to CwSN, wherein children regardless of their abilities/disabilities participate and learn together in the same class, thus creating an equitable enabling educational environment for all students.

Section 17(i) of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides making suitable modification in the curriculum and examination system, by way of provisioning extra time for completion of examination paper and exemption from second and third language courses to meet the needs of students with disabilities. In view of this, CBSE being sensitive to the needs of disabled students provides several exemptions/concessions to CwSN including deaf and dumb as defined in RPwD Act, 2016 such as issuing authority of medical certificate, facility of scribe and compensatory time, appointment of scribe and related instructions, fee and special exemptions for class X like exemption from third language, flexibility in choosing subjects, alternate questions/separate questions and special exemptions for class XII like flexibility in choosing subjects, separate question paper and questions in lieu of practical component.

Furthermore, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) implements 'National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities' which was launched in March, 2015. NAP is implemented under the umbrella scheme-"Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA)". Under NAP, for imparting skill training to persons with disabilities in the age group of 15 to 59 years, funds are released as per Common Norms Guidelines issued and amended from time to time by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Department has recently launched PM-Daksh-DEPwD Portal. Under this portal, there are two modules:-

- (i) Skill Training:- Skill training is conducted for PwDs through the portal across the country.
- (ii) Divyangjan Rozgar Setu:- The platform aims to act as a bridge between PwDs and employers having jobs for PwDs. The platform provides geo-tagged based information on employment/earning opportunities within in private companies as well as PwDs across India.

(c) and (d): The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) is implementing "Awareness Generation & Publicity Scheme" as one of the component under SIPDA Scheme across the country. The main objective of the scheme is creation of general awareness about the schemes and programmes of the Government for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and to train and sensitize key functionaries of the Central/State Government/Local Bodies and other service providers on a regular basis on disability related matters through State/District/Block level workshops with the aim to raise awareness among employees and peer groups about capabilities of PwDs.

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