

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 300
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

300. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) whether Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and several welfare organisations have demanded the implementation of exclusive reservation for physically challenged population in both education and employment and in every Government organization;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the effective steps taken by Government to ensure Social Justice for the physically challenged communities in the country; an
- (d) the total funds allocated to Tamil Nadu in the last five years for the benefit of physically challenged people, year -wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B L VERMA)

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) Section 32 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 provides that all Government institutions of higher education and other higher education institutions receiving aid from the Government shall reserve not less than 5% seats for persons with benchmark disabilities (disability of 40% or more).

Further, Section 34 of the said Act mandates reservation of not less than 4 per cent in vacancies in every Government establishments to the following categories of persons with benchmark disabilities:-.

(a)	blindness and low vision	1%
(b)	deaf and hard of hearing	1%
(c)	locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy;	1%

(d)	autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness;	1%
(e)	multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf- blindness.	

(c): The Government enacted RPwD Act, 2016 which came into force on 19.04.2017. The said Act provides rights and entitlements to PwDs, which, *inter-alia*, include right to equality, non-discrimination, protection from cruelty, exploitation, right to live with family and community, access to justice, accessibility in voting, legal capacity, legal guardianship, health, education, employment, skill development, arts, sports, recreation, culture and participation in decision making process. The said Act also provides mechanisms for protection of such rights.

Though, relief to the disabled is a State subject by virtue of entry 9 of the State List of the Constitution of India, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes and programmes. Some of the major schemes are as follows:

‘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 PwDs 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.

Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA) an umbrella scheme, under which assistance is provided to State Governments and to autonomous organizations/Institutions under Central or State Governments, for various activities relating to implementation of the RPwD Act, 2016, particularly for creation of barrier free environment, accessible india campaign and skill development of PwDs.

Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) under which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for projects relating to rehabilitation of PwDs aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels.

Scholarship Scheme under which Government provides scholarships to students with disabilities through six components namely Pre-matric (Classes IX & X), Post-matric (Classes XI to Post graduate Degree and Diploma), Top Class Education (Graduate and Post graduate Degree/Diploma in notified institutes of excellence in education), National Overseas Scholarship (Masters Degree/ Ph.D in Foreign Universities), National Fellowship for PwDs (M Phil and Ph.D in Indian Universities) and Free Coaching (for competitive exams for group A and B posts and entrance examinations for admission to technical and professional courses). Under this scheme, the scholarship amount is released directly to the Students’ bank account in DBT mode

Further, 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 PwDs and to undertake research and development. 25 Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) have been set up in various States/UTs as outreach Centres/extended arms of the National Institutes under the Department. The Government also implements

Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Card project with a view to create a national database for PwDs and issue a Unique Disability Identity card to each PwD.

(d): For schemes of the Department, State-UT wise fund allocation is not done. However, statement of details of funds (in Rs. crore) released to Tamil Nadu under various schemes of the Department is as under:

Scheme	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
ADIP	5.86	5.61	12.90	8.57	11.37
AIC	-	28.56	6.49	-	-
DDRS	1.92	2.08	1.37	1.84	3.12
NIEPMD, Chennai	34.84	27.20	33.26	26.30	23.27
UDID	0.06	0.04	0.59	0.05	0.03
