

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1397
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH 2025**

CAUSES OF BIRTH OF RETARDED AND DISABLED CHILDREN IN PUNJAB

1397 SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any information regarding the causes behind the higher incidence of mentally retarded and disabled children being born in Punjab; and
- (b) if not, whether the Ministry could elaborate on the reasons for the lack of this data?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b) As per the available scientific literature, the major causes of Intellectual disability (mentally retarded and disabled) in children are genetic and metabolic syndrome, nervous system malformations, congenital defects like neural tube defect, infections like encephalitis, meningitis, tumours, hyperbilirubinemia and cerebral haemorrhage.

As per the communication received from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) census data 2011 is used to estimate the population of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) including Intellectual disability (mentally retarded and disabled).
