

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No- 3016
ANSWERED ON-26/03/2025

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PwDS)

3016 Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham:

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

- (a) the funds allocated for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the 2025 budget, as compared to allocations to previous years, especially given the declining GDP share for PwDs;
- (b) the details of actual utilisation of the funds allocated and unspent, State-wise/UT-wise;
- (c) the reason GST continue to be levied on essential assistive devices such as mobility aids, prosthetics, hearing aids and modified vehicles, while the import duty on branded jewellery has been reduced; and
- (d) the reason Government failed to address this issue in the latest budget despite the 2023 Parliamentary Panel's recommendation to remove the 5 per cent GST on essential assistive devices?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

- (a) In Financial Year 2025-26, an amount of ₹ 1275.00 crore has been allocated to the Department in BE 2025-26. The allocation in BE 2024-25 and BE 2023-24 was ₹ 1,225.27 crore and ₹ 1,225.15 crore respectively.
- (b) All the Schemes implemented by the Department are Central Sector Schemes, therefore, no State/UT Wise allocation is being done by the Department.
- (c) & (d) Currently 5 percent GST is levied on aids and assistive devices at uniform rate. However, 0 percent GST is levied on Hearing Aids. Input Credit of GST is available to all the manufacturers and traders of aids and assistive devices only if GST is payable on final product. Input credit of GST would not be available if aids and assistive devices are exempted from GST.
