

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3173**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 20/08/2025

**Availability and expansion of hostels for visually impaired women**

3173. Ms. Swati Maliwal:

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

- (a) the number and details of hostels exclusively catering to visually impaired women across States, including their location, capacity and operating agency, with specific reference to Delhi;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the proposed hostel for visually impaired women in Timarpur, Delhi has remained non-functional since 2015;
- (c) whether any Central assistance has been sought by the State Government to establish such hostels in Delhi;
- (d) whether there are plans to establish new hostels or support NGO-run accommodations for visually impaired women; and
- (e) if so, the details of such proposals, including budgetary allocations, timelines for implementation and eligibility criteria for beneficiaries?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

(a) to (e) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) empowers Persons with Disabilities including visually impaired women through its National Institutions/Organizations and different schemes for their skilling, rehabilitation and creates an enabling environment that provides PWDs with equal opportunities, protection of their rights and enables them to participate as independent and productive members of society.

The National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disability (NIEPVD), Dehradun along with its Regional Centre at Poonamallee, Chennai (Tamil Nadu), under the Department is

providing hostel facilities for visually impaired female students pursuing HRD programmes, school education and skilling programmes with capacity of 160 and 45 respectively.

Although relief to the disabled is a State subject by virtue of entry 9 of the State List of the Constitution of India, this Department supports for the efforts of the State in fostering inclusivity, accessibility and empowerment for persons with disabilities (PWDs) including visually impaired women.

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