

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2856**  
ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026

**EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

2856. Dr. DINESH SHARMA:

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

- (a) the details of the schemes being implemented by Government for the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs); and
- (b) the details of the funds allocated, expenditure incurred, physical targets fixed and achievements made under these schemes during last five years, year-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (b): The Government enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 which came into force on 19.04.2017. The no. of disabilities has been increased from 7 to 21. The said Act provides rights and entitlements to Persons with Disabilities (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.

Section 34 of the said Act provides for 4 % reservation in the government employment to the persons with benchmark (40% or above) disabilities. Further, Section 32 of the said Act provides 5% reservation in government or government aided higher educational institutions for persons with benchmark disabilities. Furthermore, Section 37 of the said Act ensures 5% reservation in poverty alleviation and developmental schemes to persons with benchmark disabilities.

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 its major schemes namely Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP), Scholarship Schemes and Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (SIPDA). The schemes are demand driven and funds are disbursed as per actual demand. Most of the schemes do not have physical targets.

The details of the Schemes are as under:

**Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP):**

Under ADIP Scheme, the funds are released to various Implementing Agencies to assist the eligible Divyangjans 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.

Year-wise, details of funds allocated, expenditure incurred, physical targets fixed and achievements during the last five years are as under:

| <b>Year</b>  | <b>Budget Allocated (Rs.in crore)</b> | <b>Physical Target (No. of beneficiaries)</b> | <b>Expenditure (Rs.in crore)</b> | <b>Achievements (Number of beneficiaries covered)</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 2021-22      | 220.00                                | 200000                                        | 198.70                           | 228871                                                |
| 2022-23      | 235.00                                | 205000                                        | 242.29                           | 220111                                                |
| 2023-24      | 245.00                                | 215000                                        | 290.60                           | 346271                                                |
| 2024-25      | 315.00                                | 315000                                        | 348.81                           | 251339                                                |
| 2025-26      | 316.70                                | 205000                                        | 330.60                           | 282615                                                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1331.70</b>                        | <b>1140000</b>                                | <b>1411.00</b>                   | <b>1329207</b>                                        |

**Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):** Under this Scheme, the Central Government provides grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for projects related to the rehabilitation of Divyangjans. The objective is to enable them to attain and maintain their optimal physical, sensory, intellectual, and socio-functional levels.

The details of funds released and number of beneficiaries benefitted under DDRS, during the last five years is as under-

| <b>Financial Year</b> | <b>Fund released (Rs. in Crore)</b> | <b>Number of beneficiaries</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>2021-22</b>        | 100.89                              | 30173                          |
| <b>2022-23</b>        | 114.69                              | 35349                          |
| <b>2023-24</b>        | 129.97                              | 30589                          |
| <b>2024-25</b>        | 139.86                              | 34898                          |
| <b>2025-26</b>        | 134.91                              | 33382                          |

**Awareness Generation Program (AGP):** The Scheme is to promote awareness regarding the rights, entitlements and welfare measures available to Divyangjans, foster an inclusive society and facilitate their social and economic empowerment. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for organizing awareness programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, media campaigns and dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material relating to disability issues. The Scheme also supports flagship initiatives such as Divya Kala Mela, Divya Kala Shakti, Purple Fests/Fairs and other awareness and outreach programmes aimed at promoting accessibility, inclusion, livelihood opportunities and public participation of persons with disabilities. There are no prescribed physical targets. The year-wise Financial and Physical Achievements are as under:

## A. Year-wise Financial and Physical Achievements

| Financial Year | Budget Estimate (₹ in crore) | Revised Estimate (₹ in crore) | Actual Expenditure (₹ in crore) | Physical Achievements (No. of Events/ Programmes Organized) |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2021-22        | 2.50                         | 1.69                          | 2.24                            | 11                                                          |
| 2022-23        | 2.80                         | 5.50                          | 5.38                            | 16                                                          |
| 2023-24        | 20.00                        | 12.46                         | 10.71                           | 35                                                          |
| 2024-25        | 16.00                        | 10.45                         | 10.70                           | 62                                                          |
| 2025-26        | 11.00                        | 17.10                         | 13.54                           | 110                                                         |

## B. Major Achievements

| Sl. No. | Activity                                       | Achievements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.      | <b>Divya Kala Mela &amp; Divya Kala Shakti</b> | Since December, 2022, <b>31 Divya Kala Melas</b> and <b>27 editions of Divya Kala Shakti</b> have been organized across various States/UTs, benefiting around <b>2,573 artisans and entrepreneurs with disabilities</b> . The initiatives have facilitated cumulative sales of approximately <b>₹24.5 crore</b> and sanction of loans amounting to around <b>₹23 crore</b> to over <b>1,200 beneficiaries</b> , thereby promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship among persons with disabilities. |
| 2.      | <b>Purple Fest</b>                             | Three editions of <b>Purple Fest</b> have been organized at <b>Rashtrapati Bhavan</b> during <b>2024, 2025 and 2026</b> , with participation of approximately <b>14,000, 23,000 and 8,000</b> persons respectively. These events promoted awareness, accessibility, inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in society.                                                                                                                                                                |

**Unique Disability ID :-** Under this sub-scheme, an online centralized platform namely UDID portal (<https://swavlambancard.gov.in/>) has been instituted where hospitals authorized by the respective State/UT Governments have been onboarded for issuance of disability certificates and Unique Disability Identity(UDID) cards to the eligible divyangjan. Since the issuance of UDID cards is undertaken at the State/UT level, no fixed targets have been prescribed under the UDID scheme.

The details of the funds allocated, expenditure and achievements is as under :

| Year    | Funds Allocated (Rs. In Crores) | Expenditure Incurred (Rs. In Crores) | Total Number of UDID Cards Issued by Hospitals Notified by the State/ UT Government |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 9.00                            | 5.85                                 | 1670293                                                                             |
| 2022-23 | 13.27                           | 6.50                                 | 2126189                                                                             |
| 2023-24 | 15.59                           | 13.34                                | 2385206                                                                             |
| 2024-25 | 15.97                           | 7.79                                 | 1340628                                                                             |
| 2025-26 | 14.89                           | 14.28                                | 1673420                                                                             |

**Scholarship:** The Department is implementing the Central Sector Scheme for “*Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities*” with the objective of promoting inclusive education and empowering students with disabilities to continue their studies without financial or social constraints. The scheme is implemented on a Pan India basis. The scheme enables Divyang students in overcoming the physical, financial, and psychological barriers that often hinder their educational progression, thereby enabling them to achieve self-reliance, earn their livelihood, and secure a dignified place in society. This Scheme is a demand driven scheme and funds are disbursed as per actual demand of scholarships from the students and the available slots.

Details of year-wise funds allocated during the last five-years along with the actual expenditure and no. of scholarships provided are as under:

(amount in ₹ Crore)

| Year    | Fund Allocation | Actual Expenditure | No. of Scholarships provided |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 110.00          | 120.32             | 42136                        |
| 2022-23 | 145.00          | 142.00             | 44162                        |
| 2023-24 | 155.00          | 130.07             | 29374                        |
| 2024-25 | 80.00           | 89.71              | 23085                        |
| 2025-26 | 135.00          | 154.63             | 34425                        |

**Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA):** Department implements this Umbrella Scheme for effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act applicable across India. It comprises of following main sub-components:

- Creation of barrier free environment under the SIPDA Scheme (CBFE)
- Skill Training of PwDs (erstwhile National Action Plan for Skill development of Persons with Disabilities)
- Unique Disability Identification (UDID)Project
- Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP) & In-Service Training
- Cross Disability Early Intervention Centres

CBFE, being demand-driven scheme, is dependent upon the receipt of compliant proposals from the State/ UT Governments, complete in all respects, in accordance with the extant scheme guidelines. Therefore, the scheme doesn't have fixed physical targets. However, during last five years funds have been released for retrofitting of 454 buildings. The year-wise funds allocated, expenditure incurred and physical achievement are as under:

(Rs in Cr.)

| Year    | Fund Allocation | Fund Notional Allocation | Expenditure Incurred | Achievements (No. of building retrofitted) |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 209.77          | 147.31                   | 108.44               | 227                                        |
| 2022-23 | 240.39          | 100                      | 65.56                | 41                                         |
| 2023-24 | 150.03          | 67                       | 76.79                | 11                                         |
| 2024-25 | 111             | 69.06                    | 88.72                | 31                                         |
| 2025-26 | 115.1           | 200                      | 163.84               | 144                                        |

**Research on Disability related Technology, Products and Issues:-** The Department implements Cross Disability Early Intervention Centre (CDEIC) sub-scheme under the SIPDA scheme. Under the scheme, single window Cross Disability Early Intervention Centres have been launched in various National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres under DEPwD to give focused attention to children in the age bracket of 0-6 years. The centres are equipped to provide services for screening and identification facilities for identification of risk cases and referring for appropriate rehabilitative services; therapeutic Services viz. Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Parental/Peer Counseling. At present, 28 CDEICs have been sanctioned in National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres in various States/UTs.

The details of the funds allocated/expenditure incurred, physical targets fixed and achievements made under the CDEIC sub-scheme are as under:

| <b>Financial Year</b> | <b>Funds allocated/expenditure incurred (In crores.)</b> | <b>Physical Target fixed (No. of CDEICs to be sanctioned)</b> | <b>Achievement (No. of CDEICs sanctioned)</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 2021-22               | 1.15                                                     | 19                                                            | 14                                            |
| 2022-23               | 4.67                                                     | 1                                                             | 6                                             |
| 2023-24               | 2.87                                                     | 2                                                             | 2                                             |
| 2024-25               | 5.83                                                     | 3                                                             | 3                                             |
| 2025-26               | 8.87                                                     | 3                                                             | 3                                             |

**National Trust:** National Trust is a statutory body set up under the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999. The National Trust has been set up to discharge two basic duties- legal and welfare. The details of the schemes are as under:

### **1 Disha (Early Intervention & School Readiness) Scheme-**

This is an early intervention and school readiness scheme for children in the age group of 0-10 years with the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act and aims at setting up Disha Centres for early intervention for Divyangjans through therapies, trainings and providing support to family members. The details of fund released and number of beneficiaries benefitted under Disha scheme during the last five years is as under-

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Funds Allocated (in crore)</b> | <b>Expenditure Incurred (in crore)</b> | <b>Physical Target Fixed</b> | <b>Achievements Made</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-22     | 1.53                              | 1.53                                   | 399                          | 399                      |
| 2022-23     | 1.84                              | 1.84                                   | 327                          | 327                      |
| 2023-24     | 1.99                              | 1.99                                   | 351                          | 351                      |
| 2024-25     | 2.01                              | 2.01                                   | 374                          | 374                      |
| 2025-26     | 1.94                              | 1.94                                   | 394                          | 394                      |

## **2 Vikaas (Day Care) Scheme-**

This is a Day care scheme for Divyangjans attaining the age of 10 years and above, primarily to expand the range of opportunities available to a person with disability for enhancing interpersonal and vocational skills as they are on a transition to higher age groups. The details of fund released and number of beneficiaries benefitted under Vikaas (Day Care) scheme during the last five years is as under-

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Funds Allocated (in crore)</b> | <b>Expenditure Incurred (in crore)</b> | <b>Physical Target Fixed</b> | <b>Achievements Made</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-22     | 3.40                              | 3.40                                   | 783                          | 783                      |
| 2022-23     | 3.65                              | 3.65                                   | 724                          | 724                      |
| 2023-24     | 3.61                              | 3.61                                   | 714                          | 714                      |
| 2024-25     | 3.80                              | 3.80                                   | 786                          | 786                      |
| 2025-26     | 3.98                              | 3.98                                   | 825                          | 825                      |

## **3. Disha-cum-Vikaas (Day Care) Scheme-**

This is a Day care scheme with facility of Early Intervention and Day Care. The details of fund released and number of beneficiaries benefitted under Disha-cum-Vikaas (Day Care) scheme during the last five years is as under-

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Funds Allocated (in crore)</b> | <b>Expenditure Incurred (in crore)</b> | <b>Physical Target Fixed</b> | <b>Achievements Made</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-22     | 5.79                              | 5.79                                   | 1232                         | 1232                     |
| 2022-23     | 5.85                              | 5.85                                   | 1059                         | 1059                     |
| 2023-24     | 6.06                              | 6.06                                   | 1067                         | 1067                     |
| 2024-25     | 5.10                              | 5.10                                   | 1010                         | 1010                     |
| 2025-26     | 4.79                              | 4.79                                   | 924                          | 924                      |

## **4 Samarth (Respite Care) Scheme-**

The objective of Samarth scheme is to provide respite care home for orphans or abandoned, families in crisis and also for Divyangjan, including destitute with at least one of the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act. The details of fund released and number of beneficiaries benefitted under Disha-cum- Samarth (Respite Care) scheme during the last five years is as under-

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Funds Allocated (in crore)</b> | <b>Expenditure Incurred (in crore)</b> | <b>Physical Target Fixed</b> | <b>Achievements Made</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-22     | 1.53                              | 1.53                                   | 311                          | 311                      |
| 2022-23     | 1.80                              | 1.80                                   | 221                          | 221                      |
| 2023-24     | 1.85                              | 1.85                                   | 254                          | 254                      |
| 2024-25     | 1.97                              | 1.97                                   | 253                          | 253                      |
| 2025-26     | 1.92                              | 1.92                                   | 236                          | 236                      |

## **5 Gharaunda (Group Home for Adults) Scheme-**

The objective of Gharaunda scheme is to provide an assured home and minimum quality of care services throughout the life of the persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities. The scheme also facilitates the establishment of requisite infrastructure for the assured care system throughout the country, encourage assisted living with independence and dignity and provide care services on a sustainable basis. The details of fund released and number of beneficiaries benefitted under Gharaunda (Group Home for Adults) scheme during the last five years is as under-

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Funds Allocated (in crore)</b> | <b>Expenditure Incurred (in crore)</b> | <b>Physical Target Fixed</b> | <b>Achievements Made</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-22     | 3.73                              | 3.73                                   | 450                          | 450                      |
| 2022-23     | 3.87                              | 3.87                                   | 347                          | 347                      |
| 2023-24     | 4.08                              | 4.08                                   | 370                          | 370                      |
| 2024-25     | 3.85                              | 3.85                                   | 339                          | 339                      |
| 2025-26     | 3.55                              | 3.55                                   | 335                          | 335                      |

## **6 Samarth-cum-Gharaunda (Residential) Scheme-**

This is a residential Care scheme with facility of respite care and long term care The details of fund released and number of beneficiaries benefitted under Samarth-cum-Gharaunda (Residential)scheme during the last five years is as under-

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Funds Allocated (in crore)</b> | <b>Expenditure Incurred (in crore)</b> | <b>Physical Target Fixed</b> | <b>Achievements Made</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-22     | 2.93                              | 2.93                                   | 420                          | 420                      |
| 2022-23     | 3.47                              | 3.47                                   | 338                          | 338                      |
| 2023-24     | 3.55                              | 3.55                                   | 344                          | 344                      |
| 2024-25     | 3.07                              | 3.07                                   | 325                          | 325                      |
| 2025-26     | 3.20                              | 3.20                                   | 321                          | 321                      |

## **7 Niramaya- (Health Insurance) Scheme-**

The National Trust is implementing Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme for persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities. Under the Scheme, there is an insurance cover of Rs.1 lakh, which covers OPD, Diagnostic Test, Therapies, Corrective Surgeries, Alternative Medicine and Transportation. The details of fund released and number of beneficiaries benefitted under Niramaya- (Health Insurance) scheme during the last five years is as under-

| <b>S. No.</b> | <b>Year</b> | <b>No. Of Beneficiaries Enrolled</b> | <b>Expenditure (In Cr.)</b> |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1             | 2021-22     | 113292                               | 11.38                       |
| 2             | 2022-23     | 187290                               | 18.14                       |
| 3             | 2023-24     | 87746                                | 13.86                       |
| 4             | 2024-25     | 52677                                | 13.22                       |
| 5             | 2025-26     | 71537                                | 20.32                       |

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