

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (Divyangjan)
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4080
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2018**

Guidelines for Assessment and Certification of Disabilities

4080. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to notify new guidelines for assessment and certification of disabilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind this move; thereof?
- (c) whether the new guidelines will provide better access for disabled candidates in reservation benefits; and
- (d) if so, the details

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) & (b) The Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016) which came into force on 19.04.2017 replacing the earlier the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PwD Act, 1995). The RPwD Act identifies 21 specified disabilities as against 7 disabilities included under the PwD Act, 1995. With a view to take care of assessment of specified disabilities included in the RPwD Act, 2016, the Government has issued new guidelines for the purpose of assessing the extent of the following specified disabilities in a person on 04.01.2018:

- I. locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy;
- II. blindness and low-vision;
- III. deaf and hard of hearing and speech and language disability;
- IV. intellectual disability and specific learning disabilities;
- V. mental illness;
- VI. chronic neurological conditions;
- VII. haemophilia, thalassemia and sickle cell disease; and
- VIII. multiple disabilities.

(c) & (d) The RPwD Act, 2016 provides additional benefits such as reservation in seats for students in Government and Government aided higher educational institutions, Government jobs, allocation of land for housing/business, reservation in poverty alleviation schemes etc for persons with benchmark disabilities i.e. persons having 40% disability or more. These guidelines will provide the framework for the medical authorities to evaluate and identify the persons with benchmark disabilities.
