

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4967
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH MARCH, 2018**

Learning Disabilities

4967. SHRI B.V. NAIK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of children with learning disabilities enrolled in primary, secondary and senior secondary schools;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to increase awareness and sensitivity with regard to the matter of learning disabilities in children; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide counselling to teachers and parents of children with learning disabilities?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)**

(a): As per Unified District Information System for Education (2015-16), the number of children with learning disabilities enrolled at primary, secondary and senior secondary level of schooling is 182926, 16533 and 3070 respectively.

(b) & (c): Section 3 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 mandates free and compulsory education to all children between the age group of 6-14 years in the neighbourhood schools, including children with special needs (CWSN). The focus of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is on inclusive education wherein CWSN, including children with learning disabilities are placed in mainstream neighbourhood schools to promote their holistic development.

SSA promotes inclusion of CWSN in schools through their early identification, educational placement, provision of aids and appliances and other resource support services, teacher training, parental training, community mobilisation, curricular adaptations, removal of architectural barriers, as well as residential, non residential or even home based education, as per their specific requirements.

Under SSA, detailed assessment guidelines have been developed for early identification of various groups of CWSN, including children with specific learning disabilities. The guidelines also include identification of slow learners and children with mild mental retardation.

SSA provides for an outlay of Rs. 3000/- per child per annum, of which at least Rs. 1000/- per child can be earmarked for engaging resource teachers exclusively for CWSN. SSA also has a provision of engagement of two resource persons per Block Resource Centre specifically for CWSN. 18,934 such resource persons and resource teachers are currently engaged under SSA to teach CWSN.

Under SSA regular counselling programmes are conducted for CWSN and their parents and 8.36 lakh parents of CWSN have been given such training so far. Besides, the resource persons engaged at the Block Resource Centres (BRCs) exclusively for CWSN, conduct home visits to counsel the parents.

The National Council of Educational Research & Training has developed exemplar material on curricular adaptations, inclusive teaching and how to adopt flexibility in evaluation for children with disabilities in inclusive classrooms. These handbooks, meant for primary and upper primary level teachers, cover all disabilities, including cognitive and intellectual disabilities, and have been disseminated to all States and UTs. 7.24 lakh teachers under SSA have already been trained on this exemplar material. Further, under SSA, so far 2.30 lakh general teachers have been specifically trained on learning disabilities and 2.11 lakh teachers have been trained on multiple disabilities.

Under SSA, a series of five training modules has also been developed in collaboration with the World Bank. These modules aim to prepare teachers to work with children of all disabilities including children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Deaf blindness and hearing impairment in mainstream inclusive environments.

At the secondary level, the Ministry is implementing the component of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) as part of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan with an objective to provide all students with disabilities an opportunity to complete four years of secondary schooling (Class IX to XII) in an inclusive and enabling environment. Under IEDSS, assistance is provided for student oriented component @ ₹ 3000/- per child per annum, besides support for engagement of special teachers, teachers training, equipping resource room, making school barrier free, orientation of parents, administrators, educationists etc. The scheme also provisions for stipend for girls with disabilities @ Rs. 200 per month under the student oriented component. 2.26 lakh CWSN have been approved for coverage under the scheme in 2017-18. The State Governments and Boards of Education are taking various steps such as extra time during examination, reduction in qualifying criteria and passing marks, help of scribe/writer/reader etc. for the aid of CWSN, including those with learning disabilities.
