

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2132
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2018

Category of Disabilities

2132. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

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

- (a) the details of disabilities notified so far under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act;
- (b) whether the Government has received a number of representations for inclusion of certain new categories of disabilities and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government on such requests for inclusion of new categories of disabilities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016) recognizes the following as specified disabilities:

1. Locomotor disability including leprosy cured, cerebral palsy, dwarfism, muscular dystrophy and acid attack victims.
2. Visual impairment (blindness and low vision)
3. Hearing impairment (deaf and hard of hearing)
4. Speech and language disability
5. Intellectual disability including specific learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder.
6. Mental Illness
7. Disability caused due to –
 - (i) Chronic neurological conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, parkinson's disease
 - (ii) Blood disorder (haemophilia, thalassemia and sickle cell disease)
8. Multiple disabilities including deaf- blindness

(b) & (c) The Government received representations seeking inclusion of Epidermolysis Bullosa, Thrombasthenia, Type I Diabetes, Hemifacial Microsomia, Cancer Patients, Polycystic Kidney Disease etc. as specified disabilities in terms of the RPwD Act, 2016. These representations were considered by a Standing High Powered Inter-Department Committee constituted by the Government in its meeting held on 10.01.2018. The said Committee opined that there is a clear distinction between disability and medical condition. The RPwD Act, 2016 mainly focuses on disability. Any person suffering from such disease conditions, if in the long term, develops any of the above specified disabilities is already covered within the ambit of the said Act. The High Powered Committee recommended not to include any of these medical conditions as specified disability.
