

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3375
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2019

Down Syndrome

3375. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:

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

- (a) whether it is true that India has the highest number of people with Down Syndrome in the world and if so, the details thereof State-wise;
- (b) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring out the data of people with such genetic disorder at the national and State level and make it available in public domain; and
- (c) whether the Government has proposed any new legislation on Down Syndrome in the 12th World Down Syndrome Congress in the year 2015 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) According to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, no scientific study or survey has been carried out by them on the issue and as such there is no central database of people affected with Down Syndrome.

(b) The Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 which came into force w.e.f. 19.04.2017. Down Syndrome is covered under the RPwD Act, 2016 as an intellectual disability which has been recognised as a specified disability in the Act. The Ministry implements the Unique Disability ID project to create a database of persons with disabilities, which include persons with intellectual disability in the country, as well as to issue Unique Disability ID card.

(c) No Sir. There is no such proposal in the Ministry for bringing any new legislation on Down Syndrome.