

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3059**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2023

**DEFINITION OF DISABILITY**

3059. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:  
SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the inconsistencies in the definition of disability in various surveys and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the manner in which the Government would plan to overcome the gaps in counting disabled population in various surveys;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the dependence of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) on other persons during the last five years;
- (d) whether any such technology is being developed by the Government so that PwD can be made self-reliant; and
- (e) if so, the details of plans proposed by the Government to make the digital ecosystem more disabled friendly and affordable?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a): The Central Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 which defines person with disability as a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his/her full and effective participation in society equally with others.

(b): Counting of persons with disabilities (PwDs) is done as part of Census. Presently, the data of Census 2011 is relied upon for the number of persons with disabilities.

(c) to (e): The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 provides for rights, entitlements and overall inclusion of PwDs in spheres of education, skill, employment along with provision of institutional mechanism for protection of rights of PwDs etc. Further as per the provisions of this Act, the accessibility standards for public buildings, transportation system, websites,

documents to be placed on websites and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) products and services, have been laid down and notified.

In addition, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities implements various schemes to promote social, educational and economic empowerment of PwDs. Under Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme, the needy persons with disabilities are provided durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances. Scholarships are provided to students with disabilities from secondary level of school till university education and also for research. Under National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with disabilities, financial assistance is provided with an objective to create wage and self employment opportunities for PwDs. Under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for various projects relating to rehabilitation and education of persons with disabilities. National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides concessional loans to PwDs to promote self employment and economic rehabilitation of the PwDs.

The Central Government has also launched the Accessible India Campaign in 2015 to achieve universal accessibility for persons with disabilities in Built Environment, Transport System and ICT ecosystem. Further, accessible course content is also provided to students with disabilities.

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