

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 295
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 05.12.2023

SCHEMES FOR DEAF AND DUMB

295. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

(a) the details of the Government schemes available for deaf and dumb boys and girls separately in the country; and

(b) the other steps taken by the Government for deaf and dumb?

ANSWER

(MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT)

SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK

(a) and (b) Relief to the persons with disabilities is a State subject by virtue of entry '9' of the State List of the Constitution of India. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments for empowerment of persons with disabilities. The Department has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, which came into force on 19.04.2017. Chapter III of the said Act provides for duties of educational institutions and specific measures to promote and facilitate inclusive education for children with disabilities. Further, Section 31 of the said Act mandates the appropriate Government to ensure that Persons with benchmark disabilities (PwBD), i.e. disability of 40% or more, has access to free education in an appropriate environment till he attains the age of 18 years. Section 32 of the said Act provides for reservation of not less than 5% seats in Govt./Govt. aided higher educational institutions for PwBD.

Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education has launched an overarching programme for the school education sector - Samagra Shiksha Scheme. Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a dedicated component for Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs (CwSN), to ensure full equity and inclusion so that all children with special needs are able to fully participate in schools. The scheme aims at education of CwSN in a continuum from pre-school to class XII. The scheme covers all CwSN with one or more disabilities. The Samagra Shiksha Scheme is being implemented through State Governments/ UT Administrations and the Central Government provides necessary financial support for the Inclusive Education for CwSN component. Various provisions are made available for CwSN such as identification and

assessment camps (at block level), student specific interventions @ Rs.3,500/- per CwSN per annum for support, such as provision of aids, appliances, assistive devices, teaching-learning materials, Braille books, large print books, transportation, escort, scribe allowances as well as home based education for children with severe & multiple disabilities who are unable to attend school. In addition, to encourage girl children with disabilities to attend schools, stipend for girls with special needs @ Rs.200/- per month for 10 months (Rs.2,000/- per annum) through Direct Benefit Transfer is provided. Further, individualized support is also provided through resource centres at block level to cater to the unique learning needs of CwSN.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has the following major provisions/schemes to encourage the persons with disabilities including the deaf and dumb students:

(I) The Department is implementing Scheme of 'Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)' under which funds are released to various Implementing Agencies for distribution of aids and assistive devices to eligible persons with disabilities including deaf and dumb, boys and girls throughout the country. Under the ADIP Scheme, there is a provision for Cochlear Implant Surgery for children with hearing impairment.

(II) For the welfare of deaf and dumb boys and girls, the scheme namely Financial Assistance to the existing deaf colleges in the country envisages financial assistance to colleges affiliated to the UGC approved State/ Central/ UT administered colleges in each of the following five regions of the country: Rural Development and Management college for the Deaf in North Zone of India, College for Deaf in West Zone, College for deaf in South Zone, College for Deaf Central Zone, College for Deaf in East Zone.

(III) An umbrella Scheme titled 'Scholarships for Students with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (including for deaf and dumb boys and girls) in the country is implemented. The six components of the Scholarship Scheme are : Pre-matric (Classes IX & X), Post-matric (Classes XI to Post Graduate Degree/Diploma), Top Class Education (Graduate and Post Graduate Degree/Diploma in notified Institutes of excellence in education), National Fellowship (M. Phil/Ph.D in Indian Universities), National Overseas Scholarship (Master's Degree and Ph.D in Foreign Universities) and Free Coaching (for competitive exams in Govt. sector and entrance examinations for admission to technical and professional courses).

(IV) There are two National Institutes (NIs) namely Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech & Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai and Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi working in the field of hearing and speech disabilities. National Institute for empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (Divyanganjan) (NIEPMD) has been set up to fulfill the objective of serving as a national resource centre for

empowerment of persons with Multiple Disabilities. 25 Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) have been approved in various States/UTs as outreach Centres/extended arms of the National Institutes under the Department. CRCs provide rehabilitation services to all categories of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), train rehabilitation professionals, workers and functionaries, undertake programmes of education and skill development and create awareness amongst parents and the community regarding needs and rights of PwDs.

(V) Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) is conducting a 'Diploma course in Teaching Indian Sign Language' for the deaf students where tuition fees are waived off for the deaf students registered with UDID. ISLRTC has also brought out a sign language dictionary of 10,500 words which is facilitating teaching learning process of deaf students and communication of persons with hearing impairment.

(VI) Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) is a Central Sector Scheme in which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) running projects like Pre-school and Early Intervention, Special Schools, Community Based Rehabilitation etc. for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) including deaf and dumb students, aimed at enabling them to maintain their optimal physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels.

(VII) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) implements 'National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)' which was launched in March, 2015. NAP is implemented under the umbrella scheme – “Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (SIPDA)”. Under NAP, for imparting skill training to persons with disabilities in the age group of 15 to 59 years including Hearing & Speech Impairment, boys and girls, fund is released in three installments to training partners empanelled with the Department. Funds are released as per Common Norms Guidelines issued and amended from time to time by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Department recently launched PM-DAKSH-DEPwD Portal. Under this portal, there are two modules :-

(a) Skill Training:- Skill training is conducted for PwDs through the portal across the county.

(b) Divyangjan Rozgar Setu:- The platform aims to act as a bridge between PwDs and employers having jobs for PwDs. The platform provides geo-tagged based information on employment/earning opportunities within private companies as well as PwDs across India.

(VIII) National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) channelizes concessional loans for the socio-economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) including deaf and dumb persons throughout the country. There are two flagship schemes of NDFDC for channeising concessional finance through its partner agencies i.e. Divyangjan

Swavalamban Yojana (DSY), which is individual centric and Vishesh Microfinance Yojana (VMY), which is for Self Help Groups/ Joint liability groups through various partner agencies for the welfare and rehabilitation of PwDs in the country.

Under DSY scheme, loan upto Rs.50 Lakh is provided at concessional rate of interest for income generating activities, pursuing higher education/ vocational/skill training and purchase of assistive devices for PwDs. Further, a loan upto Rs.60,000/- is given to a PwD at reasonable rate of interest for providing prompt and need based finance for small/micro business and developmental activities under VMY Scheme. To avail the benefits under the aforesaid schemes, the eligibility criteria are as under :

i) Any Indian citizen with 40% or more disability (Disability as defined in PwD Act, 2016 or its amendments).

ii) Age above 18 years. However, in case of persons with mental retardation, the eligible age would be above 14 years. The age criteria would not be required for educational loans.

iii) Possession of Unique Disability ID (UDID) Number/UDID Enrollment Number (in case UDID No. is not available).

NDFDC provides a special rebate of 1% on rate of interest to deaf and dumb divyangjan in self employment loans of upto Rs 50,000/- for encouraging them to take up self employment ventures. The rebate borne by NDFDC. The education loan is provided to Student with Disability at the interest rate of 4% p.a.
