

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.567

TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR PWDS

567. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that India lacks a thriving market for inclusive solutions and assistive technologies that support and empower Persons with Disabilities (PwDs);
- (b) if so, the measures that the Government has taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans of investing in innovative technology development for PwDs as part of its Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) scheme that aims to help disabled persons by bringing suitable, durable, scientifically-manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances within their reach; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

- (a) The Government relies on Census 2011 data for disability related data. As per this Census, total number of persons with disability (PwDs) in the country is 2.68 core. Aids and assistive devices including inclusive solutions and assistive technologies are essential for overall rehabilitation and empowerment of PwDs and therefore there is thriving market for inclusive solutions and assistive technologies in India.
- (b) Government of India introduced Startup India initiative in the year 2016 to boost startup culture and create an environment of entrepreneurship in India. Today, India is the 3rd largest startup hub in the world with more than 31,945 startups. To support and promote entrepreneurship and industrial development, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of commerce and Industry has started facilitating investment in new and upcoming technologies, accelerating foreign direct investment, and supporting a balanced development of industries and trade. Gradually many startups are also looking for better health and social care solutions, including assistive technology , especially to address the need of older people, people with disabilities, people living with health conditions and others in need, both in India and beyond.
- (c) and (d) The Department is implementing the Scheme of 'Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)' under which funds are released to

various Implementing Agencies to assist the eligible persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhancing their economic potential. During last four years and current year till 31.12.2023, a total fund of Rs.1070.93 crore has been released giving benefits to 13,19,561 Divyangjan.

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a CPSE under the administrative control of this Department, is a major implementing agency of ADIP Scheme. The modernization project, with a financial layout of Rs. 338.04 crores, reflects a commitment to align ALIMCO's production infrastructure with cutting-edge technological advancements. Apart from this, following initiatives have been taken by the Corporation for the development of assistive Technology :-

(i) ALIMCO, National Institute of Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute of Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD) and Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) have entered in an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for design, development and standardization of microprocessor controlled Prosthetic Knee Joints & Prosthetic multiaxial foot piece for persons with lower limb amputation.

(ii) Development of Kadam Knee Joint by ALIMCO, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras and Society for Bio- Medical Technology (SBMT). Bangalore.

(iii) ALIMCO is in collaboration with Central Institute for Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) and National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad for design and development of new die for production and product aesthetic.

(iv) The Project for the development of indigenous Cochlear Implant System "Sravan" had been initiated by Defence Research and Development Organisation of India.

(v) ALIMCO has in-house developed Assistive Technology Products like Sugamya Cane (Smart Cane) and Sports Wheelchair for Divyangjan.

(vi) ALIMCO has installed 3D printing technology that help Divyangjan by bringing suitable, durable, scientifically-manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances within their reach.

(vii) ALIMCO has signed Transfer of Technology (TOT) with leading multinational company named OTTOBOCK for production and fitment of international quality of Below knee and Above knee Prosthetic devices for Persons with Lower limb amputation. ALIMCO has started regular manufacturing of these products in State of Art manufacturing facility at its Kanpur unit since more than 5 years.
