

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3475  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2019**

**Financial Assistance to Mentally Challenged**

**3475: SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to provide monthly financial assistance to a large number of mentally challenged poor people in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are very few Government/private institutes in the country for providing training to mentally challenged people and there is shortage of special teachers in these institutes;
- (c) if so, the steps taken to solve the said issues;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide free railway passes to the mentally challenged poor people; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (a) Ministry of Rural Development provides Disability Pension under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) to the persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households who are suffering from multiple or severe disability with 80% disability level. Under the scheme central assistance Rs. 300/- per month is provided to persons aged 18-79 years and the pension amount is enhanced to Rs. 500/- per month on attaining the age of 80 years.
- (b) As per Census 2011, 5,45,847 school going children with Mental Retardation (Intellectual Disability) between the age group of 5-19 years need special education and training. Therefore, there is a need of approximately 70000 special teachers as per the ration 1:8 for such children, however, as per the records available with the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), 50513 special educators are registered in Central Rehabilitation Register of RCI and are qualified to teach children with Mental Retardation (Intellectual Disability).
- (ii) The National Trust of the Department has 654 Registered Organizations in the country. Out of these, over 200 Registered Organisations are implementing schemes for providing various facilities to mentally challenged poor people.



(iii) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (2016 - 2020), the flagship outcome-based Skill Training Scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is implemented across 37 sectors, including Person with Disability sector. Under PMKVY 2016-2020, to facilitate and encourage training of candidate especially women, and Persons with Disabilities those and from backward areas, the scheme provisions payout in the form of post placement support, conveyance allowance, assistive aid, boarding and lodging facility (wherever applicable) among others. Out of a total 34,000 persons with disabilities candidates trained under PMKVY (2016-2020), 74 candidates belong to Mental behavior- Mental Illness /Mental Retardation category.

(iv) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has launched National Action Plan in March, 2015 for skill training to persons with disabilities including for the mentally challenged which is implemented through government/ private organizations empanelled as training partners, including National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC). So far, 275 organizations have been empanelled across India.

(c) RCI promotes teacher training centers to conduct courses in special education.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Extent policy of Ministry of Railways and the statutory provisions contained in Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986 (Second Edition-1993) do not provide for extending free railway pass facility to mentally challenged poor people.

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