

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 354
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.02.2020

REHABILITATION OF DIFFRENTLY ABLED CHILDREN

354: SHRI SHANTANU THAKUR:

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

- (a) the provisions made under the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan;
- (b) the provisions made for the overall rehabilitation of differently-abled children; and
- (c) the precautions taken by the Government to benefit the genuinely disabled people so that it can reach the real needy people?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) Accessible India Campaign (AIC) was launched on 03.12.2015 as a nation-wide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility. The campaign focuses on enhancing the accessibility of the built environment, transport system and information & communication eco-system for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities.

Provision has been made under the Accessible India Campaign to make selected buildings of States/UTs accessible under built-up environment, International and Domestic airports, Railway Stations, Bus Stops and their services accessible under the transportation sector. Provision has also been made for selected websites of States/UTs and Central Government to be made accessible along with the documents uploaded in these websites to be in accessible format. Further, provisions for accessible enhancing of TV viewing experience has also been made under Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) ecosystem.

(b) The Central Government has enacted "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD), 2016" which came into force on 19.04.2017. The Act provides various rights and entitlement for persons with disabilities including children with disabilities. So far as children with disabilities are concerned, the Act specifically provides for protection from abuse, violence and exploitation, right to live with family, free education for children with benchmark disabilities upto the age of 18 years etc. It further mandates the appropriate Government to take specific measures to ensure that children and women with disabilities enjoy their rights equally with others.

Relief to the disabled is a State subject by virtue of entry 9 of the State List of constitution of India. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the States Government through various schemes and programmes for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) including children with disabilities. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) implements the following major schemes and programmes for Persons with Disabilities including children with disabilities:

(i) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP):

Under this scheme, funds are released to various implementing agencies to assist the needy persons with disabilities including students with disabilities 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 enhance their economic potential throughout the country. Cochlear Implant surgery of the needy children with hearing disability in the age group of 0-6 years is also supported under the scheme.

(ii) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):

This is a Central Sector Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Government Organizations for various projects for the welfare of PwDs. Under the scheme, there is provision for funding special schools for children with disabilities. The admission of the children in these special schools is based on the disability certificate.

(iii) Scholarships for Students with Disabilities:

The Department implements another Central Sector Umbrella Scheme, "Scholarships for Students with Disabilities" with the following components:

1. Pre-Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities (SwDs) (For Class IX & X).
2. Post-Matric Scholarship for SwDs (For Class XI to Post-graduate Degree/Diploma).
3. Top Class Education Scholarship for SwDs (For Graduate and Post-graduate Degree/Diploma in notified Institutes of excellence in Education).
4. National Overseas Scholarship (For Master's Degree/Ph.D. in Foreign Universities).
5. National Fellowship for PwDs (For M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Indian Universities).
6. Free Coaching for SwDs (for recruitment examinations for Group A & B posts and entrance examinations for admission in technical and professional courses).

(c) Section 91 of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD), 2016, provides for punishment for those who fraudulently avail or attempts to avail benefit meant for Person with benchmark disabilities.
