

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1462
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.09.2020**

Skill Development Centres for Differently Abled Persons

1462. SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to establish any skill development centres or institutes for rehabilitation and empowerment of differently abled persons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof specific to Odisha along with the funds allocated for the same;
- (c) the details of disabilities for which there already exist Government Schemes for empowerment and employment;
- (d) the details of the schemes in place to enhance employability of persons with disabilities;
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to undertake any project aimed at distributing wheelchairs, hearing aids and other such equipment to differently abled persons, who lack access to the same; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) and (b): No Sir. There is no plan to establish any skill development centre by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD). The Department implements a National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities under which training is provided to PwDs through various Govt. and Non-Govt. organizations empanelled with the Department as Training Partners (ETPs) from various states. Training is also provided through National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, a CPSE of the Department and National Institutes/Composite Regional Centres of the Department.

The Department presently has following two Institutes functional in the state of Odisha:

1. Swami Vivekanand National Institute of the Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack and
2. Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Employment of persons with disabilities, Balangir.

In addition, there is a Vocational Rehabilitation Centre (VRC) for Handicapped at Bhubaneswar, Odisha under administrative control of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(c) and (d): The Department implements following schemes for empowerment and employment of persons with disabilities:

- i. National Action Plan (NAP) of DEPwD for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities: This is a Central Sector Scheme which was launched in March, 2015 and implemented across the country. The skill training of PwDs under this scheme is conducted via a network of empanelled training partners (ETPs) comprising Government organizations (National Institutes/National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation/Composite Regional Centre/Other Government Orgs) and Non-Govt. Organizations (NGOs). The main objective of the scheme is to make the PwDs employable.

This is an employment linked scheme and ETPs are mandated to conduct job outreach activities to enhance the employability. The scheme also incentivizes ETPs for facilitating placement of the trained candidates. The reimbursement of last 20% of training payout to ETPs is linked with the placement (wage employment or self-employment) of the candidate. Moreover, there is provision of incentive for Training Partners for placement above prescribed norms of 70%. There are certain incentives to encourage participation of PwDs in the skill training also i.e. post placement support, monthly conveyance allowance, boarding and lodging etc.

ii. Incentive to Private Employers to employ Persons with Disabilities:

Under the scheme of "Incentive to Private Employers to Employ Persons with Disabilities" there is a provision that the employers' contribution (including administrative charge) for the first ten years of service of disabled employees towards Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) can be borne by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. In addition, one-third of the gratuity amount due and admissible to the disabled employees can also be borne by the Department.

iii. Scholarships for Students with Disabilities: The Department is implementing Umbrella Scheme 'Scholarships for Students with Disabilities' which comprises six components viz. Pre-matric Scholarship (for Class IX & X), Post-matric Scholarship (for Class XI to Post-graduate Degree/Diploma), Top Class Education Scholarship (for Graduate and Post-graduate Degree/Diploma in notified institutes of excellence in education), National Overseas Scholarship (for master's Degree/Ph.D. in Universities abroad), National Fellowship for PwDs (For M.Phil and Ph.D in Indian Universities) and Free Coaching for Students with Disabilities (to appear for competitive examinations conducted by Union/State Public Service Commissions for Government jobs and admission to technical and professional courses).

All the above schemes (points i) to iii)) are applicable to all the categories of benchmark Disability (40% and above) as included in the Schedule of the RPwD Act, 2016.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship being implemented with an objective to provide skilling to prospective youth including persons with disability (PwD) under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) across the country.

Further, there is an exclusive Sector Skill Council for PwD namely Skill Council for PwD (SCPwD) for catering the needs of the PwD candidates and run training in PwD-friendly training centres. Such centres are structurally designed to enable PwD candidates to experience a beneficial training. For enhancement of employability SCPwD has:

- a) Signed MoU with 256 Industry partners.
- b) Job fairs are organized periodically to bring employers, candidates and training partners
- c) Skill Grid portal has been created to make interface between employers, candidates and Training partners

Under PMKVY and SCPwD related works, candidates of all disabilities are trained/allowed.

(e) and (f) : Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities implements the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) under which grants-in-aid are provided to the various Implementing Agencies viz., Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)/ National Institutes/Composite Regional Centres/District Disability Rehabilitation Centres/Indian Red Cross Societies/ Non Government Organizations for distribution of aids and assistive devices including wheel chairs, hearing aids and other such aids and assistive devices to eligible persons with disabilities.

Under National Action Plan of DEPwD for skill development of persons with disabilities and PMKVY Scheme also PwD candidates are provided Rs. 5,000/- towards Personal Assistive Aid.