

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3284  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2021**

**Proposal to include seriously ill in the List of Disability**

**3284. SHRI SADASHIV KISAN LOKHANDE :**

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

(a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any step to include the people suffering from serious diseases like cancer, heart disease, sugar problem and kidney failure (dialysis) in the list of disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)**

**(a) to (c)** The Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 which came into force on 19.04.2017. The Schedule of the said Act contains the list of specified disabilities. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) constituted a High-Powered Inter-Departmental Committee under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, DEPwD to consider requests for inclusion of new disabilities. This Committee in its meeting held on 10.01.2018, *inter-alia* considered representation regarding inclusion of new categories of disabilities such as cancer, polycystic kidney disease/kidney post-transplant, Type I diabetes etc. The Committee was of the view that there is a clear distinction between disability and medical condition. The RPwD Act, 2016 mainly focuses on disability, whereas, medical condition relates to specific disease only. Any person suffering from disease conditions, if in the long term, develops any of the specified disabilities mentioned in the Schedule to the RPwD Act, 2016, is already covered within the ambit of the said Act. The Committee, therefore, was against inclusion of these conditions, per se, as 'Specified Disability', in the Schedule to the Act.

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