

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2428
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2021

Walking Sticks for Visually Challenged Population

2428. SHRI T.R.V.S. RAMESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement new technology for providing improved walking sticks for the Visually Challenged population in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has identified any organisation or agency for manufacturing battery/cell-operated walking sticks for the visually challenged population, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend financial assistance to such organization on pilot project basis in case any organization is manufacturing such walking sticks for the visually challenged population;
- (d) the number of visually challenged population in India, both State-wise and district wise; and
- (e) the various Government and private agencies engaged in the welfare activities for the visually challenged people in India?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

- (a) The Government is providing smart cane to persons with visual disabilities under the Scheme of 'Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)'.

The smart cane is operated with rechargeable battery and sensor fitted in its upper part which vibrates in case of any obstacle in front of the user. The cane is foldable and can easily be kept in the bag.

At present, smart canes are being procured from domestic supplier by the implementing agencies.

The details of Smart Canes distributed during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Number of Smart Canes distributed
2018-19	7737
2019-20	6259
2020-21	5288
Total	19284

(b). No, Sir.

However, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Department) is in the process of designing and developing a smart cane from its own resources. Once fully developed, its mass production will begin for distribution under the ADIP Scheme.

(c). No, Sir.

(d). As per Census 2011, the number of persons with visual disability is 50,33,431.

State-wise details are at Annexure.

The district-wise details are available on the website of the Registrar General of India (<https://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/C-series/c-20.html>).

(e). A directory of Services for the Blind and Low Vision Persons in India has been compiled by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun, Uttarakhand, an autonomous body under this Department. The Directory incorporates information on organisations and services being provided across the country for persons with visual disabilities. Details can be accessed from the Institute's website. (http://nivh.gov.in/pdfdoc/directory_of_services.pdf/directory).

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2428 for answer on 03.08.2021 regarding "Walking Sticks for Visually Challenged Population"

As per census 2011, State-wise persons with visual disability in India

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	Visually Challenged Population
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	1084
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	398144
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	5652
4	ASSAM	80553
5	BIHAR	549080
6	CHANDIGARH	1774
7	CHHATTISGARH	111169
8	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	429
9	DAMAN & DIU	382
10	NCT OF DELHI	30124
11	GOA	4964
12	GUJARAT	214150
13	HARYANA	82702
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	26076
15	JAMMU & KASHMIR	66448
16	JHARKHAND	180721
17	KARNATAKA	264170
18	KERALA	115513
19	LAKSHADWEEP	337
20	MADHYA PRADESH	270751
21	MAHARASHTRA	574052
22	MANIPUR	19194
23	MEGHALAYA	6980
24	MIZORAM	2035
25	NAGALAND	4150
26	ODISHA	263799
27	PUDUCHERRY	3608
28	PUNJAB	82199
29	RAJASTHAN	314618
30	SIKKIM	2772
31	TAMIL NADU	127405
32	TRIPURA	10828
33	UTTAR PRADESH	763988
34	UTTARAKHAND	29107
35	WEST BENGAL	424473
	Total	5033431
