

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 266  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2021**

**SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS**

**266. SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:**

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

- (a) the number of physically challenged students in the country and the number of such students covered under various scholarship schemes being run by the Government, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is satisfied with the coverage of physically challenged students under the above said schemes;
- (c) if not, the remedial steps taken by the Government to provide scholarships to all physically challenged students in the country; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government for overall development of physically challenged citizens and to provide assistance to them in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

**(a)** The Ministry does not compile information relating to Students with Disabilities. However, as per Census 2011, there are 2.68 crores Persons with Disabilities in the country.

Under the Scholarship Schemes for Students with Disabilities, students with benchmark disability (disability of 40% or more) are eligible for scholarship. State-wise number of Students with Disabilities covered during the last seven years is at **Annexure**.

**(b) and (c)** The number of Students with Disabilities getting scholarship has increased from 306 during 2014-15 to 42972 during 2019-20. With a view to ensure better coverage of these schemes the Ministry has undertaken the following measures:-

- (i) Until 2017-18, these six scholarship schemes, viz, Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education, National Fellowship, National Overseas and Free Coaching were implemented as

stand-alone schemes having separate budgets. From 1st April, 2018, all the six scholarship schemes have been merged into an Umbrella Scheme titled 'Scholarship for Students with Disabilities'. In the umbrella scheme, if there is surplus fund available in one segment that can be utilized in the other segment.

- (ii) The Department issues advertisements in leading Newspapers across the country to increase awareness of these schemes amongst students and other stakeholders. All the other types of media are also tapped for spreading awareness.
  - (iii) Under the revised scheme implemented with effect from 01.4.2018, the amount of Pre & Post Matric Scholarship has increased. Further, the number of slots in Pre- Matric scholarship has increased from 20,000 to 25,000 and in case of Top Class Education Scholarship scheme from 160 to 300.
  - (iv) Under National Overseas Scholarship, the applications can be submitted throughout the year.
- (d) The other steps taken by the Government for overall development of physically challenged citizens:-

1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, increased the number of disabilities from 7 to 21. The Act has increased reservation in Government jobs from 3% to 4% and in Government and Government aided higher educational institutions from 3% to 5%.
2. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has nine National Institutes which provide rehabilitation services, contribute to capacity building and promote research in the field of rehabilitation. Besides, there are 21 Composite Regional Centres which provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities.
3. Centre for Disability Sports being set up at Gwalior with the main objective of providing persons with disabilities the training facilities at par with the latest in the world so as to enable them to effectively compete and win medals in Paralympics, Deaflympics, Special Olympics and other international events for sports persons with disabilities.
4. The Government is also implementing various schemes for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) Details of some of the major schemes are as under:

(i) **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):** Under this Central Sector Scheme, financial assistance is provided to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities PwDs).

(ii) **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme:** Under this Scheme, funds are released to various Implementing Agencies to assist the eligible persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) 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 enhancing their economic potential.

(iii). **Scheme for the Implementation of Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA):** Under the umbrella Scheme, financial assistance is provided for undertaking various activities outlined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The major components of the Scheme are as follows:

**(I) Accessible India Campaign (AIC):**

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 mandates accessibility under Section 40 to 46 of the Act. With a view to creating barrier free environment for independent and safe living of PwDs, Government launched the Accessible India Campaign (AIC) on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015. AIC is being implemented under 3 pillars of built up environment, transportation system and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

**(II) National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs):** The Government launched the National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in March, 2015 for skilling of PwDs through a network of empaneled training partners (ETPs) comprising Government organizations (National Institutes/National Handicapped Development Finance Corporation/Composite Regional Centres/Other Government Organizations) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

**(III) Creation of barrier free environment for Persons with Disabilities:** Under this scheme funds are provided to the States/UTs for creation of barrier free environment by mainly providing lifts, ramps accessible toilets, tactile flooring and accessible websites.

**(IV) Unique Disability Identification (UDID) Project:**

Under this project, the Government is creating a national data base for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and issuing unique identification cards to them.

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**Annexure**

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question. No. 266 for answer on 20.07.2021 regarding "Scholarship Schemes for Physically Challenged Students" raised by Shri Ramcharan Bohra.

State-wise number of SwDs benefitted during the last seven years and current year

S.No.	State/UT	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (as on 18.06.2021)
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	74	144	221	233	217	628	201	73
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	21	2	8	0	0	0
4	ASSAM	3	30	115	8	150	1089	19	311
5	BIHAR	16	42	430	410	1248	1771	903	1034
6	CHANDIGARH	0	25	3	11	4	17	2	29
7	CHHATTISGARH	3	9	120	275	417	344	7	128
8	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	0	1	4	2	0	8	1	7
9	DAMAN & DIU	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
10	DELHI	5	144	25	395	338	476	9	22
11	GOA	0	0	0	3	0	11	6	0
12	GUJARAT	7	56	132	674	310	250	1379	10
13	HARYANA	12	56	76	143	252	239	111	127
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	2	39	106	144	94	142	79	89
15	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	2	5	155	400	229	206	545	215
16	JHARKHAND	8	8	117	53	665	286	99	99
17	KARNATAKA	14	107	2564	1009	1686	1100	1239	2125
18	KERALA	3	1207	829	2415	2873	0	0	2090
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	3669	4192	0
20	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	MADHYA PRADESH	6	309	6574	6422	5090	5429	4003	3001
22	MAHARASHTRA	18	83	326	93	863	1082	459	487
23	MANIPUR	2	29	3	30	0	12	7	0
24	MEGHALAYA	0	3	60	27	9	0	0	1
25	MIZORAM	0	0	33	35	2	26	5	0
26	NAGALAND	0	0	15	5	0	0	45	1
27	ODISHA	16	1911	629	2307	2076	3341	1495	755
28	PUDUCHERRY	3	7	5	22	33	79	27	62

29	PUNJAB	2	54	72	106	531	444	1019	190
30	RAJASTHAN	4	77	125	725	1222	1567	76	1078
31	SIKKIM	0	12	55	13	3	7	3	0
32	TAMIL NADU	31	51	189	1260	1506	1181	2000	553
33	TELANGANA	0	27	108	135	138	328	95	78
34	TRIPURA	1	2	262	192	81	159	66	127
35	UTTARAKHAND	0	42	3	1	37	391	142	62
36	UTTAR PRADESH	58	1898	703	2756	5565	18205	7178	774
37	WEST BENGAL	16	96	760	892	4722	485	660	44
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>6474</b>	<b>14841</b>	<b>21206</b>	<b>30369</b>	<b>42972</b>	<b>26072</b>	<b>13572</b>