

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1423
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2021

EMPOWERING DUMB AND DEAF

1423. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:

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

- (a) whether the Government is working towards empowering deaf-dumb people;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme by the Government;
- (c) whether the Government is planning for uniformity of 'sign language'; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof of the R&D and new technology which will provide same sign language to all deaf people?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) This Ministry is implementing the Scheme of 'Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances' (ADIP) to provide free aids and assistive devices to eligible persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) including persons with speech and hearing impairment to promote their physical, social and psychological empowerment by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhancing their economic potential.

Under the ADIP Scheme, there is a provision for Cochlear Implant to 500 children with speech and hearing impairment up to the age of 5 years per year with a cost ceiling of Rs.6.00 lakh per unit to be borne by the Government.

Clinical and Rehabilitation services are being provided by National Institutes (NIs) and Composite Regional Centers (CRCs) functioning under this Ministry to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) including persons with speech and hearing impairment. In addition, various professional courses are also conducted by NIs and CRCs to train manpower for rehabilitation and education of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Amongst National Institutes, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai and Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre

(ISLRTC), New Delhi aim to empower PwDs, especially persons with speech and hearing impairment through their various activities.

This Ministry is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme, namely Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) under which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) running projects for the welfare of PwDs including those with speech and hearing impairment, aimed at enabling them to maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional level.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(c) & (d) Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), a National Institute under the Ministry has been working for the empowerment of persons with speech and hearing impairment, through its various courses and short term training programs on Indian Sign Language Interpretation and teaching.

With a view to ensuring uniformity of sign language, the Centre is working jointly with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) for standardization of Indian Sign Language (ISL) and preparation of ISL version of NCERT Textbooks and Teaching-Learning Material (TLM) in ISL as per the Universal Design of Learning (UDL) guidelines.
