

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3201

TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2022

TEACHING OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED (BLIND)

3201. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

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

- (a) the total population of Visually Impaired (Blind) persons in the country;
- (b) whether 1/3rd of the world's Visually Impaired (Blind) population lives in India;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of various software and technological developments for better teaching the Visually Impaired (Blind) in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to include such technological innovations such as self teaching Braille devices for better teaching Visually Impaired (Blind) persons and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a) & (b) As per Census, 2011 there are 50,33,431 persons with visually impairment in the country, whereas as per the World Health Organization (WHO)'s world report on vision, 2019 there are about 2.2 billion persons having vision impairment globally.

(c) The Government is aware of various software and technological development for better teaching of persons with visual impairment which inter-alia include :

- Screen Reader Software
- Refreshable Braille Display (RBD) for reading on screen text line by line in Braille.
- Braille embossing machine for printing text in Braille as fast as 24 Braille pages per minute.
- Smart Phone, Smart Canes and other mobile device

(d) Adoption of advance technology by the Government through its various institutions working for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities including persons with visually impairment is a continuous process. The advance technology items such as Smart Phone, Tablet, Smart Cane etc. relevant for empowerment of persons with visual impairment have already been covered under Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fittings of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) scheme of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
