

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5152
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.04.2022

Impact of Climate Change on Disabled/Old People

5152. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study or research has been conducted regarding the impact of climate change on people with disabilities and older people, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether people with disabilities and older people inclusive climate action laws and policy are formulated to mitigate and adapt the impacts of climate change on them, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) As per the Working Group II contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment report titled “Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability” released in February 2022, in virtually all of the research identifying particular climate-related risks to health, wellbeing, migration and conflict, specific types of individuals are identified as having higher levels of vulnerability and exposure to climate-related health hazards: people who are impoverished, undernourished, struggle with chronic or repeated illnesses, live in insecure housing in polluted or heavily degraded environments, work in unsafe conditions, are disabled, have limited education, and/or have poor access to health and social infrastructure. Notwithstanding, the report also notes that data on exposure to health, flooding and drought risks on vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children and disabled is often lacking.

Furthermore, the Government has assessed the impact of climate change on human health and initiated the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health. The programme aims to reduce morbidity, mortality, injuries, and health vulnerability among the population in the country including disabled and older people, due to climate variability and extreme weather.

(b) Government is seized of the matter. The extant legal and promotional measures by various Ministries/Departments adequately address the challenges including impact of climate change on vulnerable sections of the society, disabled and older people. Within the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have taken a series of measures for inclusive growth and welfare of the disabled sections of the society through various schemes/ programmes and activities.
