

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2037
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6th DECEMBER, 2024**

DATA COLLECTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

2037: DR. RANI SRIKUMAR:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the disparity in estimates between Census 2011, identifying the disabled population at 2.21%, and National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) which estimates it at 1%, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to include all persons with 21+ recognized disabilities in its national health surveys, research studies and reports in compliance with Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure comprehensive data collection for persons with disabilities?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d): The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) relies on Census 2011 for data on the population of persons with disabilities in the country. According to the Census 2011, in India, out of 121 Cr population, there are an estimated 2.68 Cr persons with disabilities, which is 2.21% of the total population.

As per the Census 2011, the details of disabled population by type of disability are as under:

Category wise Number of Persons with Disabilities	
Type of Disability	Persons
Total number of disabled persons	2,68,14,994
In seeing	50,33,431
In Hearing	50,72,914
In Speech	19,98,692
In Movement	54,36,826

Category wise Number of Persons with Disabilities	
Type of Disability	Persons
Mental Retardation	15,05,964
Mental Illness	7,22,880
Any Other	49,27,589
Multiple Disability	21,16,698

The primary focus of National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which is an integrated survey conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is maternal and child health and other associated domains.

As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016, there are 21 specified disabilities. The DEPwD has launched the Unique Disability ID (UDID) sub-scheme with a view of creating a National Database for Persons with Disabilities across the country. Under the UDID project, certificates of disability and Unique Disability Identity cards are issued to Persons with Disabilities through competent medical authorities notified by respective State Governments/Union Territories. The project aims to encourage transparency, and efficiency in the system of delivering government benefits to persons with disabilities. As per the available record, almost 1.15 crore UDID card has been issued since the launch of the project. The UDID database can be used as a reliable platform to ascertain the estimate of PwD population in the Country in due course.
