

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2419
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2024

WELFARE OF DIVYANGJAN

2419. Shri Gajendra Singh Patel:

WILL THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) the details of schemes formulated by the Government for the welfare of divyangjan ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to implement any scheme to provide electrical tri-cycles to the divyangjan?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

(a) The Government enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 which came into force on 19.04.2017. The no. of disabilities has been increased from 7 to 21. The said Act provides rights and entitlements to PwDs, which, inter-alia, include right to equality, non-discrimination, protection from cruelty, exploitation, right to live with family and community, access to justice, accessibility in voting, legal capacity, legal guardianship, health, education, employment, skill development, arts, sports, recreation, culture and participation in decision making process.

Section 34 of the said Act provides for 4 % reservation in the government employment to the persons with benchmark (40% or above) disabilities. Further, Section 32 of the said Act provides 5% reservation in government or government aided higher educational institutions for persons with benchmark disabilities. Furthermore, Section 37 of the said Act ensures 5% reservation in poverty alleviation and developmental schemes to persons with bench mark disabilities.

Though, relief to the disabled is a State subject by virtue of entry 9 of the State List of the Constitution of India, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments through its major schemes namely Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) and Scholarship Schemes.

(i) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliance (ADIP): The Department Implements ADIP Scheme throughout the country through various Implementing Agencies viz., National Institutes/Composite Regional Centres/Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)/District Disability Rehabilitation Centres/State Development Corporations working in field of Disabilities/other Local Bodies/ Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Under the scheme, durable, modern and scientifically manufactured aids and assistive devices are provided to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) for promoting their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, thereby reducing the effects of disabilities and enhancing their educational and economic potential. The funds are released to various Implementing Agencies for the purchase, fabrication, and distribution of such standard aids and appliances that are in conformity with the objectives of the Scheme. Implementing Agencies take care of/ make suitable arrangements for fitting and post-fitting care of aids and assistive devices distributed under the Scheme.

(ii) Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):- Under the Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance is provided to the voluntary Organizations for running various projects for the welfare/empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) including Special School for the Children with Visual, Hearing and Intellectual disability including Children with Cerebral Palsy etc., aimed at enabling them to maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels.

(iii) Scholarship Schemes for Students with disabilities:

Under this Scheme, the Government provides scholarships for students with disabilities such as Prematric (for classes IX & X), Post-matric (from class XI up to Post Graduate degree/diploma level), Top Class Education (Post graduate degree/diploma in notified Institutes), National Fellowship (M.Phil and PhD courses in Indian Universities), National Overseas Scholarship (Masters Degree/ Ph.D in Foreign Universities).

The scholarship amount is released directly to the Students' bank account in DBT mode.

(iii) Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA): Under this Scheme, assistance is provided to State Governments and autonomous organizations/Institutions under Central or State Government/various implementing agencies for various activities relating to the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Major Components of Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) are:-

(a) Creation of Barrier Free Environment for PwDs

(b) National Action Plan for Skill Development

(c) Accessible India Campaign (AIC)

(d) Unique Disability Identity Card

(e) Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme

(iv) **National Action Plan for Skill Development:** The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities launched the **National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs (NAP-SDP)** in 2015 to enhance skills, employability, and self-reliance among PwDs aged 15-59 years through training provided by empaneled Government and Non-Government Organizations nationwide. In September 2023, the **PM-DAKSH Portal-DEPwD** was introduced as a digital platform to streamline skilling and employment efforts. It includes two modules: **Divyangjan Kaushal Vikas**, offering skill training, and **Divyangjan Rozgar Setu**, connecting PwDs with geo-tagged employment opportunities across private companies in India.

Besides above, **The National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)** under this Department provides concessional loans to empower Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Key schemes of NDFDC include **Divyangjan Swavalamban Yojana (DSY)**, offering loans up to ₹50 lakh for income generation, education, or assistive devices, and **Vishesh Microfinance Yojana (VMY)** providing loans up to ₹60,000 for small businesses through Self-Help Groups and partner agencies.

The **National Trust**, a statutory body under the Department, has formulated seven welfare schemes for persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability, and Multiple Disabilities: **Disha** (Early Intervention and School Readiness), **Vikaas** (Day Care), **Disha-cum-Vikaas** (Day Care), **Samarth** (Respite Care), **Gharaunda** (Group Homes for Adults), **Samarth-cum-Gharaunda** (Residential) and **Niramaya** (Health Insurance).

(b) The Department is implementing the Scheme of Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme) under which durable, modern and scientifically manufactured aids and assistive devices are provided to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) including motorized tricycles.
