

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2504
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/12/2024

‘RIGHTS OF DISABLED PEOPLE’

2504. Shri Rajkumar Chahar :

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

- (a) whether the Government is making any effort to ensure the rights of disabled people in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to provide the service of specially trained teachers to teach disabled children in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the State Governments are legally bound to adopt the qualification prescribed by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) as the eligibility criteria for imparting training to disabled children in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

(a) & (b): The Government of India ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), demonstrating its commitment to upholding and promoting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities (PwDs). Aligning with provisions of the UNCRPD, the Government enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD), 2016.

The said Act provides rights and entitlements to persons with disabilities, which inter alia include equality, non-discrimination, protection from cruelty and inhuman treatment, protection and safety, home and family, reproductive rights, accessibility in voting, access to justice and provision for guardianship. The Act has provisions of 4% reservation to persons with benchmark disabilities (PwBDs) in government employment and 5% reservation for PwBDs in institutions imparting Higher-Education which are receiving aid from the Government. The Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been established under section 74 of the RPwD Act 2016 to take steps to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities.

Though, relief to persons with disabilities is a State subject by virtue of Entry 9 of the State List of the Constitution of India, the Central Government, through its major schemes namely Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP), Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), Deendayal Divyangjan

Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), Skill training, Scholarship, Accessible India Campaign etc., supplements the efforts of State Governments to ensure rights of the persons with disabilities.

(c): The mandate given to the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), under the RCI Act 1992, is to regulate and monitor services given to persons with disabilities, to standardise syllabi and to maintain a Central Rehabilitation Register of all qualified professionals and personnel working in the field of Rehabilitation and Special Education. The Council is mandated to standardise course curriculum for Human Resource Development under 16 categories of rehabilitation professionals/personnel in which Special Educator is one of the categories. The RCI has approved Teachers Training Programme at Diploma, Degree and Masters Level in Special Education being offered across the Country at 696 approved institutions. So far, 1.81 lakhs professionals/personnel in Special Education are registered in the Central Rehabilitation Register (CRR) maintained by RCI under Section 19 of RCI Act, 1992.

(d) & (e): As per section 11 of the RCI Act, 1992, the Council is mandated to standardise course curriculum for Human Resource Development for 16 categories of rehabilitation professionals/personnel in which Special Educator is one of the categories. Accordingly, the Council issues Model Recruitment Rules for recruitment of Special Educators and other Rehabilitation Professionals/personnel to serve in the field of special education and disability rehabilitation to be followed as a model by all the concerned recruitment agencies.
