

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

LOK SABHA

Unstarred Question No.2907

To be answered on 18.03.2025

ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

2907. SHRI JASWANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:
SMT. APARAJITA SARANGI:

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

- (a) the mechanisms in place to assess the effectiveness and awareness initiatives in improving societal inclusivity and understanding of Asperger's Syndrome;
- (b) whether the Government is launching specific skill development and employment programmes tailored for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome to promote workplace inclusivity, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has engaged with private organizations or NGOs to amplify the outreach and effectiveness of such awareness programmes, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) observes all defined disabilities including Asperger's Syndrome (Autism Spectrum Disorder) under Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act) in the form of disability-related calendar days annually through its National Institutes (NIs), Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) and Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs). To ensure comprehensive documentation and impact assessment of these events, the Department has developed a JotForm-based reporting mechanism. This requires all participating institutions to submit pre and post-event reports, including photographs, details of activities conducted.

These reports form the basis for social media dissemination, press releases and promotional campaigns coordinated by the Department and its associated institutions. Additionally, the Department works closely with the Press Information Bureau (PIB) to amplify awareness initiatives across relevant media platforms.

(b) To enhance skills of Persons with Disabilities; to enable them to have gainful employment and to become self-reliant, productive and contribute members of society and stand up on their own feet, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is implementing the National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP). Under NAP-SDP, skill training is imparting to persons with disabilities including Asperger's Syndrome (Autism Spectrum Disorder) in the age group of 15 to 59 years. Training under the NAP-SDP scheme is being provided through various Government and Non-Government Organizations, empanelling as training partners (ETPs) with the Department. These Government and Non-Government Organizations provide skilling across the Country.

The Department has developed PM-DAKSH Portal-DEPwD for effective implementation of National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs (NAP-SDP). This portal is a one-stop digital destination for PwDs, who need skilling and employment and for Training organizations and Employers/job aggregators of PwDs.

- (i) Divyangjan Kaushal Vikas:- Skill training is conducted for PwDs through the portal across the country.
 - (ii) Divyangjan Rozgar Setu:- The platform aims to act as a bridge between PwDs and employers having jobs for PwDs. The platform provides geo-tagged based information on employment/earning opportunities within private companies as well as PwDs across India.
- (c) The National Institutes working under the aegis of DEPwD actively collaborate with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and local administrations, state and district administrations and NGOs specializing in disability rehabilitation to train grassroots-level workers and for expand awareness programs including orientation programs on Asperger's Syndrome (Autism Spectrum Disorder).

On International Asperger's Day (February 18, 2025), National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD) has organized a webinar titled 'Asperger's and Adulthood' under its E-Information Series – 16. The session, led by an expert in special education, provided insights into challenges faced by individuals with Asperger's Syndrome and strategies for inclusion. The webinar witnessed active participation with 107 attendees joining via Google Meet and additional outreach through YouTube.

These efforts collectively contribute to fostering awareness, early intervention and workplace inclusivity for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome.
