

Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 249

TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/07/2025

Support to Children with Special Needs

249. Dr. Kirsan Namdeo:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is providing holistic support to children with special needs in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of schemes and initiatives that have been taken by the Government in this regard during the last two years; and
- (c) the details of such projects and sponsorship particularly in Maharashtra?

ANSWER

Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment
(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

(a) to (c) :

Yes; the Government of India is providing holistic support to children with special needs (CwSN) through legislative frameworks, schemes, and initiatives under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD), 2016, and programs implemented by the Department. The section 16 and 17 of the RPwD Act, 2016 mandates inclusive education to the children with disabilities; Section 40 promotes inclusive education through accessible schools/parks and learning materials etc. The National Education Policy 2020 advocates for inclusive education for children with disabilities.

The Government supports children with autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, and multiple disabilities through legal and financial aid. The National Trust under DEPwD is implementing Vikaas (Day Care) scheme, Gharaunda (Group Home for Adults) scheme, and

the Niramaya Health Insurance scheme in Maharashtra, benefiting approximately 5,100 beneficiaries including Divyangjan children over the last two years.

The National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) under DEPwD provides rehabilitation services to Persons with Intellectual disabilities from birth to life-span. NIEPID Regional Centre Navi Mumbai caters services for all age groups of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (PwIDs) from Centre-based to Community-Based Rehabilitation. This Centre is providing Mobile Therapy Bus Service to Divyangjan. It also provides services to persons with Autism under e-Sanidhya Project.

The Central Government has launched National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs (NAP-SDP) with an aim to enhance the skills of PwDs with an age of 15 and above. In the last two years, an amount of ₹19.98 crore has been released under NAP-SDP scheme including Maharashtra.

The DEPwD, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, implements the ADIP-Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (ADIP-SSA) to provide aids/appliances to Children with Special Needs (CWSN). In Maharashtra, 5,418 CWSN benefited in 2023-24 and 2024-25 under ADIP-SSA.

Under the Central Sector Scheme named 'Scholarships for Students with Disabilities' scheme, around Rs. 12 crore have been released to 2,219 students with disabilities in Maharashtra over the past two years.

DEPwD has launched single window, Cross Disability Early Intervention Centres (CDEICs) in its various National Institutes (NIs) and Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) to give specialized support and services for infants and young children who are at risk or have disabilities and/or development delays to children in the age bracket of 0-6 years.
