

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4303
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/08/2025

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS

4303. SHRI BHOJRAJ NAG:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU

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

- (a) whether any national institute is run by the Department in the State of Chhattisgarh;
- (b) whether any significant work is being done in the field of education, rehabilitation and skill development of visually impaired boys and girls in these institutions, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any significant efforts for the educational development and upliftment of visually impaired boys and girls, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has made any provision to connect visually impaired children to higher and technical education, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

(a) There are nine National Institutes under this Department which cater for Persons with Disabilities across the country. Presently, no National Institute under this Department in the State of Chhattisgarh. However, there is a Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, an extended arm of National Institute is being run in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh under the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities under the Department.

(b) to (d) The Department through its National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun offers Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) - recognized Special Education programmes including M.Ed. (VI); B.Ed. (VI) and (DB); and D.Ed. (VI) and along with Psychology courses such as M.Phil. (Rehabilitation Psychology), M.Phil. (Clinical Psychology), M.Sc. Integrated Applied Psychology and PG Diploma in

Rehabilitation Psychology. The institute also conducts vocational and skill development programmes in trades such as Computer Operations, Braille Stenography & Secretarial Assistance (English & Hindi), Assistive Technologies, Music, Adjustment, Gardening, Reflexology, and Radio Jockey for persons with visual impairment to enhance skills, independence, and employment opportunities.

NIEPVD, Dehradun runs a CBSE affiliated Model School for visually impaired boys and girls. NIEPVD also run Balvatika classes aligned with NEP 2020 for early childhood education and class 1 readiness. The institute has also hosted India's first inclusive and universal design-based NBT outlet to promote accessible literature and reading habits among children and youth with disabilities.

Although relief to the disabled is a State subject by virtue of entry 9 of the State List of the Constitution of India, this Department support for the efforts for educational including higher and technical education and upliftment of visually impaired boys and girls through its major initiatives and schemes, which details is as follow:-

(i) The Scheme of 'Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)' under which funds are released to various Implementing Agencies to assist the eligible persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) including Persons with Visual Disabilities in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhancing their economic potential throughout the country. In order to make the education accessible Aids and assistive devices are distributed to school going children including Persons with Visual Impairment under the provision of ADIP-SSA (Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan) in collaboration with Ministry of Education.

(ii) Under Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance is provided to the voluntary Organizations/ State Project Implementing agencies for (i) setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and (ii) 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) Department is implementing Umbrella Scheme 'Scholarships for Students with Disabilities' comprising six components viz., Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education, National Overseas Scholarship, National Fellowship for PwDs and Free Coaching schemes with an objective to remove financial, physical and psychological barriers, enabling the Divyang students to pursue education and live with dignity. Funds are disbursed directly to students' bank accounts (DBT mode) throughout India.

(iv) Department implements the National Action Plan for Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP) for imparting skill training to persons with disabilities in the age group of 15 to 59 years including visually impaired boys and girls.
