

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2684  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2015**

**Autism Affected Children**

**2684. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK":**

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

- (a) the total number of autism affected children in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of special schools set up for such children;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan in collaboration with private sector and voluntary organisations in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any institute has been set up/proposed to be set up by the Government for creating awareness about autism and resettlement of affected children and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)**

- (a) Census 2011 does not provide separate data relating to the number of children affected with autism in the country. Also this Ministry has not conducted any detailed survey to find out the total number of children affected by autism in the country.
- (b) The Central Government has not set up special school exclusively for children with autism. However, this Ministry implements Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme under which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations for their projects including special schools for mentally challenged children aimed at enabling them to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, or social functional levels.
- (c) & (d) The Central Government has set up the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple disabilities, in 2000 through an Act of Parliament. The National Trust implements schemes for these class of disabilities. Recently, the National Trust has launched 10 new/revised schemes for the welfare of these four categories of persons with disabilities. These are (i) DISHA (early intervention and school readiness scheme for children in age group of 0-10 years), (ii) VIKAS (day care scheme for enhancing inter-personal and vocational skills), (iii) SAMARTH (respite care for orphans or abandoned, family in crisis etc.), (iv) GHARAUNDA (group home for adults), (v) NIRAMAYA (health insurance scheme), (vi) SAHYOGI (care giver training scheme), (vii) GYAN PRABHA (Educational support for pursuing educational/vocational courses), (viii) PRERNA (marketing assistance to create viable and wide spread channel for sale of products and services produced by persons with disabilities), (ix) SAMBHAV (aids and assistive devices) and (x) BADHTE KADAM (awareness and community interaction). These schemes are implemented by National Trust through the organisations registered with them.

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