

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1238
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.7.2016**

SETTING UP OF DEDICATED CENTRES

1238. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiative to set up dedicated centres to assist applicants with Disability in colleges, schools etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)**

(a) to (c): The University Grant Commission (UGC) has issued instructions from time to time to all the Universities/Institutions/Deemed to be Universities (receiving grant-in-aid from Public Fund) to assist the applicants belonging to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) category at the time of their admissions.

In addition, the following steps/initiatives have also been taken for educational advancement of PwDs:-

- i. Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (HEPSN) for Universities and Colleges scheme creates awareness among the functionaries of higher education about the specific educational needs of PwDs and to equip higher educational institutions with facilities for providing access to PwDs.
- ii. Scheme for Visually Challenged Teachers (in Universities and Colleges) helps the visually challenged teachers (appointed on regular basis) to achieve self-dependence by using various aids for teaching, learning and research.
- iii. Teacher Preparation in Special Education (TEPSE) Scheme (for Universities only) provides equal educational opportunities to PwDs in higher educational institutions.

Section 3 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act mandates free and compulsory education to all children including the children with Special Needs (CWSN) in the age group of 6 to 14 years in a neighborhood school till the completion of elementary education. Further, under (SSA), which is the key vehicle to implement the RTE Act, transport, escort support and assistive devices are provided to CWSN to facilitate their enrolment in schools. Two resource persons are exclusively placed at the Block Resource Centre to help CWSN for their access to neighborhood schools.
