

of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities.

(b) and (c) To promote economic rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities, the National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides concessional loans for self employment and income generating activities. The NHFDC has disbursed Rs. 1284.32 lakh to 3015 beneficiaries during 2001-02.

(d) to (f) The National Policy on Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation is at an advanced stage of formulation.

National Trust for welfare of persons with Autism

2758. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, etc. and since when it is functional;

(b) the programmes/schemes being run by the Trust and amount spent under each scheme/programme, so far;

(c) the appraisals, if any, of schemes/programmes to assess the actual flow of benefit to the target groups and outcome thereof;

(d) the manpower in position in the Trust as against authorized/sanctioned strength and whether this is not affecting proper examination of schemes/programmes which involve spending of Government money; and

(e) the remedial steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The objectives of the National Trust are given in Statement. I (See below). The Trust started functioning in July, 2000.

(b) The programmes/schemes being run by the Trust and the amount spent so far is as under:—

Name of the Scheme	Amount released
1. Establishment of Relief Institutions	Rs. 2,21,12,043
2. Training of care givers	Rs. 42,68,880

(c) Since just one year has elapsed since implementation of the schemes mentioned above, no appraisal has been done. However, feed back is obtained regarding numbers of beneficiaries and delivery of other services in respect of the projects funded by the National Trust.

(d) and (e) The manpower position against the sanctioned posts is given in Statement-II (See below). Proper examination of the project proposals received under the schemes/programmes of National Trust is ensured before funds are released to the implementation agencies.

Statement-I

Objectives of the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities

- (a) to enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to the community to which they belong;
- (b) to strengthen facilities to provide support to persons with disability to live within their own families;
- (c) to extend support to registered organizations to provide need based services during period of crisis in the family of persons with disability;
- (d) to deal with problems of persons with disability who do not have family support;
- (e) to promote measures for the care and protection of persons with disability in the event of death of their parent or guardian;
- (f) to evolve procedure for the appointment of guardians and trustees for persons with disability requiring such protection;
- (g) to facilitate the realisation of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disability; and
- (h) to do any other act which is incidental to the aforesaid objects.

Statement-II**Manpower position against sanctioned posts**

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	No. of Posts Sanctioned	Filled
1.	Chairperson	1	1
2.	Chief Executive Officer	1	1
3.	Deputy Director	1	1
4.	Assistant Legal Advisor*	1	—
5.	Accounts Officer*	1	—
6.	Private Secretary	1	1
7.	Personal Assistant	2	1
8.	Assistant	1	—
9.	Upper Division Clerk	1	—
10.	Lower Division Clerk	1	2
11.	Peon/Chowkidar	3	2

* Since Recruitment Rules have not yet been finalized, appointments of one Legal Adviser and one Finance Officer have been made on retainership and consolidated salary respectively.

Schemes to strengthen the legal rights of senior citizens

2759. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the welfare of the Senior Citizens of the country so as to get benefit of their long experience and strengthen their legal rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of those States where Welfare Schemes for these citizens are already being implemented without any Central assistance; and