

Financial assistance to SCs for treatment of chronic diseases

1524. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation has formulated a new plan to help poor Scheduled Caste people to seek financial assistance for treatment of chronic diseases in certain Government hospital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme has been given wide publicity among the targeted groups to help them to take advantage of this facility; and

(d) if so, what is its feed-back in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The scheme, viz, "Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme" is meant to provide medical treatment facility to the patients belonging to SC category, whose annual family income is less than Rs. 50,000 and who are suffering from serious ailments related to Kidney, Heart, Liver, Cancer and Brain or any other life threatening diseases including knee surgery and Spinal surgery. The scheme is implemented in a wide range of hospitals.

(c) In order to popularize the Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme, among the targeted group, letters were sent to all District Magistrates/Dy. Commissioners, Health Secretaries of States/Union Territories, Chief Secretaries of the States and Administrators of Union Territories etc. requesting them to give wide publicity to the scheme. Further, details of the scheme are also available on the website of the Foundation (www.ambedkarfoundation.nic.in) and also on the website of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (www.socialjustice.nic.in).

(d) So far only one case has been received from Orissa in which financial assistance has been provided for medical treatment.

Welfare schemes for SCs, STs and OBCs

1525. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the welfare schemes for SCs, STs and OBCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last four years; and

(c) the future action plan prepared for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Policy for upliftment of disabled persons

1526. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated a National Policy for upliftment of disabled persons;
- (b) if so, the details and the features thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to promote employment opportunities among the disabled persons; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The salient features of the National Policy formulated in February, 2006 are:-

- (i) Physical Rehabilitation, which includes early detection and intervention, counseling & medical interventions and provision of aids & appliances. It also includes the development of rehabilitation professionals.
- (ii) Educational Rehabilitation including vocational training and
- (iii) Economic Rehabilitation for a dignified life in society. In addition the policy also focuses upon rehabilitation of women and children with disabilities, barrier free environment, social security, research etc.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The following steps have been taken to promote employment opportunities among the disabled persons:-

- (i) Reservation in Govt. service under Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (hereafter "PD Act");
- (ii) Implementation of a scheme for providing incentives to employers in the private sector for providing employment to the persons with disabilities;
- (iii) Soft loans for self-employment ventures under the schemes of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation;
- (iv) Vocational rehabilitation Centres under the schemes of Ministry of Labour & Employment;
- (v) Employment in the schemes of Ministry of Rural Development in rural areas and of Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation in urban areas as per Section 40 of the PD Act.

Hostels for SC/ST students

1527. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any scheme for providing hostel facilities in educational institutes for girls and boys belonging to SCs/STs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the total funds allocated and spent so far for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.