

Regulatory authority for bio-technology

2201. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up regulatory authority for biotechnology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is in the process of setting up of a regulatory authority for biotechnology product and processes. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has been entrusted to act as the nodal agency to establish "National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority" (NBRA) through an act of Parliament. Accordingly, a consultative group of experts have prepared draft establishment plan of NBRA and the proposed Bill. Both the draft documents were put in public domain for review and comments. Several consultative meetings were held with concerned stakeholders representing farmers and consumer's organizations, industry, legal experts, media and academia/scientists from research institutions/universities. State Governments were also consulted for their feedback. An Interdisciplinary and Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee was also constituted to oversee and advise on all matters related to drafting, reviewing the comments of experts and stakeholders as well as preparing final documents. The governmental process of inter-ministerial consultation has been completed for obtaining necessary approvals for the NBR Bill by the Cabinet and subsequently the Parliament as per procedure.

Disability certificates

2202. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

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

- (a) whether only 22 per cent of physically challenged people are in possession of the prescribed disabilities certificates;
- (b) if so, whether Administrative Reforms Commission in its 12th Report has attributed this to non-existence of simple, transparent and client-friendly procedures;
- (c) whether "The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995" has adequate provisions for this; and
- (d) if not, the steps for one week issuance norm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Information was given by State Government in 2007 that about

22% of persons with disabilities had been provided disability certificates, out of the total population of persons with disabilities, as per Census, 2001.

(b) to (d) The Administrative Reforms Commission in its 12th Report has referred to the need to devise simple, transparent and client-friendly procedures for issuance of disability certificates.

Under Section 2 (p), The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for certification of disability. Further, there are guidelines for evaluation and assessment of various disabilities and for issuance of disability certificates to persons with disabilities. These guidelines are revised from time to time.

A revised simplified, transparent and client-friendly procedure has been prepared for incorporation in The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996, which includes a provision for a time limit for issuance of disability certificates.

Survey of beggars

2203. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a survey conducted by Delhi Social Work Department of about 3500 beggars, has revealed that four are Degree holders, six have completed college courses and many of them earn around Rs. 500 a day, which is higher than what several blue and white collar workers make;

(b) if so, how Government proposes to deal with growing menace of begging, in Delhi itself, where they are 75000, so that educated and literate are not forced to resort to begging; and

(c) the perspective planning to end begging menace all over India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) A survey on beggary was conducted by Department of Social Work, University of Delhi on the request of Government of NCT of Delhi. Out of surveyed beggars, 6 were found to be graduates and 4 were post graduates. As per the report, 22 beggars earn between Rs. 200/- to 500/- per day.

(b) and (c) As per above report it is difficult to assess the exact number of beggars at any given time in Delhi as beggar population is floating and they keep migrating in and out of Delhi. As per the figures collected from different areas at different times, the average number of beggars in Delhi was 58,570.

Government of Delhi have reported earlier that regular raids are conducted to apprehend Beggars under Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 as extended to Delhi. Many other steps like mobile courts under the Act, Opening of Shelter Homes, involvement of NGOs in training