

Prevention of atrocities

‡3591. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken to enhance annual income limit for guardians of students;
- (b) whether the State Governments are likely to get meager amount in the current plan under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Protection of Civil Rights Act, if so, the action taken in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) No income ceiling has been prescribed for some of the scholarship schemes. In others, it is revised from time to time, keeping in view availability of funds.

(b) and (c) The budget allocation for 2009-10 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is Rs. 43 Crores. There is an increase of Rs. 3.00 crores for the current year over previous year's allocation.

Mentally retarded children

3592. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any figures of the total number of mentally retarded children in the country;
- (b) whether Government has any figures or details of NGOs who are working in this field to provide succour to these children;
- (c) whether Government has any policy to work in PPP mode with these NGOs or to provide financial assistance to such NGOs; and
- (d) if so, the criterion to select such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) As per Census 2001, the number of persons with mental disability in the age group of 0 to 19 years is 7.96 lakhs.

(b) There is no centralized data-base of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who are working in this field. However, in 2008-09, 238 NGOs working in the field of rehabilitation of Mentally Retarded Children were provided financial assistance under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS).

(c) and (d) Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), the Government provides funds to NGOs for running projects for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, which

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.