

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.

includes mentally retarded children. Some of the important eligibility criteria for selection of NGOs under the Scheme are as below :

- (i) The organization should be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860) or any relevant Act of the State/Union Territory; or a public trust registered under the law for the time being in force; or a charitable company licensed under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1958;
- (ii) The organization should be registered under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;
- (iii) The organization should have a legally constituted managing body;
- (iv) It should not be running for profit to any individual or body of individuals;
- (v) It should have at least 2 years experience in running the project for which the grant-in-aid has been applied;
- (vi) It should have engaged qualified staff as prescribed under the Schemes.

The NGOs are provided grant-in-aid on the basis of the recommendations of the concerned State Governments Union Territory Administration.

Persons with disabilities

3593. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had called a meeting of the central coordination committee on July 21, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has decided to include Dyslexia and Autism in the list of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) by bringing out an amendment in Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when this Bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) and (b) The Central Coordination Committee met on 21.7.2009 to consider, *inter-alia*, the proposed amendments to the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation), Act, 1995.

- (c) No decision has been taken so far in this regard.
- (d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.
- (e) The Bill can be introduced only after completion of the consultation process.