

(ii) Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew), O/o the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai.

(c) The tribunal shall dispose of the reference expeditiously and shall, as soon as practicable on the conclusion of the proceedings, submit its award to the Central Government.

Welfare of parents and senior citizens

881. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would enact a national law for the welfare of parents and senior citizens who do not have any source of income and are above 60 years, binding legally their aged children for maintaining them, similar to the law as implemented recently by Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Government has enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 in December, 2007. The Act defines senior citizen 'any person being a citizen of India, who has attained the age of sixty years or above'. The Act *inter-alia*, makes maintenance of parents and senior citizens by children/relatives obligatory and enforceable through tribunals. The Act comes into force in a State on such date as the State Government may appoint. As per information available, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has notified the Act on 23.08.2008.

(b) Does not arise.

Welfare schemes for physically and mentally handicapped

882. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare programmes and schemes for the physically and mentally handicapped persons in the country;

(b) the funds allocated for implementation of these scheme's during the last three years, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether funds allocated for this programmes and schemes were used properly;

(d) if not, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the proper utilization of the funds meant for social welfare and empowerment of physically and mentally handicapped persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The following schemes/programmes are being implemented by the Government for the welfare of physically and mentally handicapped persons in the country:-

- (i) **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):-** Under the Scheme, funds for the welfare of persons with disabilities are provided to the non governmental organizations for projects like special schools for disabled, Vocational Training Centres, Half Way Homes, Community Based Rehabilitation Centres, Early Intervention Centres for Disabled and Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons etc.
- (ii) **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP):-** Under the scheme, aids/appliances are distributed to the needy persons with disabilities.
- (iii) **National Institutions (NIs):-** The Ministry supports seven autonomous National Institutes which provide rehabilitation services and with the overall objective of providing rehabilitation services for different types of disabilities.
- (iv) **The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDCL):-** Provides concessional credit to persons with disabilities for setting up income generating activities for self employment.
- (v) **Scheme for implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (SIPDA):-** Under this scheme, assistance is provided to the State Governments, Institutions, Organizations under Central or State Governments for various activities relating to implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 particularly for creating barrier free environment supporting District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, Composite Regional Centres etc.
- (vi) **Scheme of incentives to Employees in the Private Sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities:-** Under this Scheme, launched in April, 2008, the government of India reimburse the employers' contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for initial three years in respect of persons with disabilities employed in the private sectors on or after 1.4.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000/- .

(b) All the schemes mentioned in reply to part (a) above are Central Sector Schemes, hence funds are not allocated state-wise. The budget allocation under these schemes in last three years are given below:-

(Rs. in crores)

Scheme	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
DDRS	70.00	79.00	79.00
ADIP	70.00	70.00	70.00
NI	49.00	49.00	49.00
NHFDC	7.00	9.00	9.00
SIPDA	18.00	20.00	20.00
Incentive Scheme	0.00	15.00	15.00

(c) to (e) Several measures are in place for effective monitoring of the utilization of the allocated funds in the disability sector, which includes inspection and review of the functioning of the grantee organizations, obtaining their periodic progress report, audited statement of accounts, utilization certificates etc.

Welfare of trans-gender people, drug addicts etc.

883. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to constitute a Welfare Board to address the concerns of trans-gender people, people with different sexual preferences, injectable drug users and those infected with HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to suitably amend the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act in order to ensure respectability and an end to harassment of those with different sexual preferences and also to grant them sexual minority status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) At present there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) implements the "Targeted Intervention Programme" under National AIDS Control Programme. This Programme focuses on primary prevention of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) with high risk groups namely female sex workers (FSW), Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and Men who have sex with Men (MSM), and high risk men, namely migrants and truckers.