

Grants for artificial limbs to handicapped persons

423. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government have given grants to State Governments for providing artificial limbs to handicapped persons;
- (b) if so, the grant given to the State Government of Assam during last three years and the number of rehabilitation centres in the State;
- (c) the total number of registered handicapped persons in the State; and
- (d) whether a special list is prepared or census is done for handicapped in Assam and North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme), grants are not released to the State Governments. Grants are released to the Implementing Agencies directly. The Ministry has set up eight District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and one Composite Regional Centre in Assam.

(c) and (d) Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India (RGI) has informed that as per Census, 2001, there were 5,30,300 Persons with Disabilities in the State of Assam. There is no special list of Persons with Disabilities for Assam or North Eastern States. However, a question on disability has been included in the Household Schedule of Census, 2011 which is currently being canvassed across the country including the State of Assam as also rest of the States in NE Region.

Agreement between ISRO and Devas Multimedia Pvt. Ltd.

424. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an agreement was made in 2005 between the Indian Space Research Organisation's Commercial arm Antrix Corporation Limited and Devas Multimedia Private Ltd. for launching two Satellites for Devas;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that this agreement bestows on the latter a large benefit of unbridled use of 70 MHz of the scarce S-band spectrum over a 20 year period causing a loss of more than Rs. 2,00,000 crores to the exchequer;
- (c) whether the CAG has started inquiries into the agreement; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir. Antrix have signed an agreement with M/s. Devas on January 28, 2005 for leasing of 90% of the space segment capacity on two satellites for 12 years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. CAG has asked for some preliminary information regarding the agreement.

Enquiries into agreement for S-band spectrum

425. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has started enquiries into 2005 agreement between the Antrix Corporation Ltd., (ISRO's commercial wing) and Devas Multimedia Pvt. Ltd., with regard to allotment/use of 70 MHz of scarce S-band spectrum over 20 year period;

(b) whether as per preliminary enquiries by CAG there is a loss to the exchequer to the extent of Rs. 2 lakh crores;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether deal has been informed to Prime Minister, Cabinet and Space Commission by Antrix; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The CAG has asked for some preliminary information regarding the agreement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir, as it is a purely commercial agreement.

Satellites for Devas Multimedia Pvt. Ltd.

426. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO has launched two satellites for Devas Multimedia Pvt. Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details of the launching of satellites;

(c) the reaction of the Ministry that public resources were diverted to build two customer-specific satellites; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.