

**Replacing law for disabled persons**

272. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to replace the existing Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 with a comprehensive law in harmony with United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee was set up on 30.04.2010 consisting of experts in disability sector, representatives of various stakeholders, Central Ministries, State Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations etc, to prepare a draft new legislation in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to replace the existing Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PwD) Act, 1995. The Committee, *inter-alia*, held as many as 24 State level consultation meetings with various stakeholders including disabled people organisations, civil society organisations working in disability sector. A separate consultation was also held with legal experts. The Committee submitted its report including draft legislation called the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2011, on 30-06-2011 which is under consideration.

**Welfare of disabled persons**

273. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing financial assistance to rehabilitation centres for the welfare of persons with disability in the country;

(b) if so, the assistance provided to the State Governments during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Government also proposes to extend financial assistance to the urban and rural local bodies for prevention of alcohol and drug abuse in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Yes, Sir. To provide comprehensive