

guidelines etc .issued by the Government and the local authorities for the welfare and protection of rights of persons with disabilities. The office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at New Delhi is operational since 01.09.1998.

(d) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for various facilities and benefits to persons with disabilities in the field of education and employment. Any person suffering from not less than 40% of any disability is covered under the Act. The facilities/benefits include free education till the age of 18 years, special schools for children with disabilities, free of cost special books and equipments, scholarship, reservation of 3% in government employment and reservation in poverty alleviation schemes. Section 43 of the Act provides for framing of schemes for persons with disabilities for preferential allotment of land at concessional rates for house, setting up of business, setting up of special recreation centres, establishment of research centres and establishment of factories by entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Under Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme, funds are released to various Implementing Agencies to distribute durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances.

Steps taken for prohibition

†1364. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken or will take any steps for prohibition;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The "production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors" is a State subject, as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector "Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse" under which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

financial assistance is provided, *inter-alia*, to Non-Governmental Organisations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan etc for running Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA) to provide composite/integrated services for the rehabilitation of the alcohol and drug addicts on the basis of recommendation of the concerned State Governments. Around four hundred IRCA have been provided financial assistance across the country under the Scheme. Efforts are also made to generate awareness about the harmful effects of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse.

Prohibiting hand pulled rickshaws in West Bengal

1365. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether passenger rickshaws are pulled by human beings in Kolkata and other parts of West Bengal even after 65 years of having achieved Independence;
- (b) if so, how many such rickshaws are operating in West Bengal;
- (c) whether the Central Government would enact a law prohibiting inhuman passenger rickshaws pulled by human beings in West Bengal; and
- (d) if not, the detailed reasons for not enforcing such a law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Funds allotted to NGOS for welfare of physically challenged

1366. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise and State-wise details of fund allocated to various NGOs during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 for the welfare of physically challenged;
- (b) the details of fund utilized by various NGOs during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 for welfare of physically handicapped;
- (c) the year-wise and NGO-wise details of fund allocated and utilized in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the above said period; and