

Facilities to persons suffering from disability

2120. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the matter of transfer of Government servants whose parents suffer from disability;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been examined and the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether the Ministry has formulated any policy to address issues faced by persons with disabilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of facilities and priorities being given by Government hospitals to disabled persons in the matter of treatment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Department of Personnel and Training have issued instructions relating to preferred posting of employees who have mentally retarded children and have not issued any instructions in particular, in the matter of transfer of government servant whose parents suffer from disability.

(c) and (d) As per information provided by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Central Government developed and adopted the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in 2006. The National Policy recognizes that the Persons with Disabilities are a valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society. It is in consonance/with the basic principles of equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals that are enshrined in the Constitution of India and implicitly mandate an inclusive society for all, including persons with disabilities. The National Policy recognizes that the persons with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures. The salient features of the policy are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(e) The following facilities are available for disabled persons in Central Government Hospitals:

- Separate counter for registration in the OPD.
- Wheel Chairs, trolleys, ramps, etc. and porter services, for quick access to the counters/Doctors
- They are attended to on priority.

Statement

Salient features of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities

- i. Physical Rehabilitation, which includes early detection and intervention, counseling and medical interventions and provision of aids and appliances. It also includes the development of rehabilitation professionals;
- ii. Educational Rehabilitation which includes vocational training; and
- iii. Economic Rehabilitation, for a dignified life in society.

The following mechanism is in place for implementation of the National Policy:

- i. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry to coordinate all matters relating to implementation of the Policy.
- ii. The Central Coordination Committee, with stakeholder representation, coordinates matters relating to implementation of the National Policy. There is a similar Committee at the State level. Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies are associated in the functioning of the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres. They are required to play a crucial role in the implementation of the National Policy to address local level issues.
- iii. The Ministries of Home Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, Rural Development, Urban Development, Youth Affairs and Sports, Railways, Science & Technology, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Labour, Panchayati Raj and Women and Child Development and Departments of Elementary Education & Literacy, Secondary and Higher Education, Road Transport and Highways, Public Enterprises, Revenue, Information Technology and Personnel and Training are also identified for implementation of the policy.
- iv. The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at Central level and State Commissioners at the State level play key role in implementation of National Policy, apart from their statutory responsibilities.