

Financial assistance for setting up of old age homes

2926. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides any financial assistance for setting up and maintenance of old age homes;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, whether there are any plans in future for setting up of old age homes;

(c) the details of old age homes running in Kerala during the last three years, and the current year; and

(d) the funds sanctioned by Government in this regard during the last three years and the current year in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) and (b) There is no scheme of providing assistance for setting up/construction of old age homes. Under the Ministry's Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons, financial assistance is provided to NGOs, Panchayat Raj Institutions, Local Bodies and Government institutions like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sanghathan based on the recommendation of the State-level Grant-in-aid Committee for, *inter-alia*, running and maintaining old age homes.

(c) and (d) A Statement showing details of old age homes running in Kerala and funds sanctioned/released during last three years is given in Statement (*See below*).

Statement***Details of old age homes in Kerala and funds released during last three years and current year***

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)						
Sl. No.	Name of NGOs	Project(s)	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Welfare Services Ernakulam, Ponnurunni, Vyttila P.O. Kochi- 682019	OAH and MMU-1	Nil	12.91	3.02	No fund has been released yet.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Karuna Bhavan Social Centre, Sreemoolanagar, Kalady, Ernakulam	OAH-1	Nil	8.51	3.88	-do-

Scholarships offered to persons with disabilities

2927. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the scheme-wise total number of scholarships offered to persons with disabilities;
- (b) the year-wise and scheme-wise number of beneficiaries under the scheme during the past three years; and
- (c) the steps taken to improve the uptake of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is presently implementing the following two Schemes of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for award of scholarship to students with disabilities, including those pursuing Higher and Technical education:

- (i) Scholarship Scheme for students with disabilities from a fund of the Ministry called the National Fund for People with Disabilities. Under the scheme a total of 500 scholarships are awarded every year.
- (ii) Scholarship Scheme for students with disabilities funded out of Trust Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Under the scheme a total of 1000 scholarships are awarded every year, beginning from the academic year 2011-12.

Statements indicating State-wise details of total amount released under the Scholarship Scheme (National Fund) during the last three financial years and under the Scholarship Scheme (Trust Fund) for the year 2011-12 are given in Statement I & II respectively. (See below).

The Ministry has also launched a Central Sector scheme namely, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) during the financial year 2012-13 to increase opportunities to students with disabilities for pursuing higher education leading to degrees such as M. Phil and Ph.D. The scheme will take effect from 1st April, 2012. The scheme caters to total number of 200 Fellowship (Junior Research Fellows) per year. The scheme covers all universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and is implemented by the UGC itself.