

**Indian Sign Languages Research and Training Centre**

3908. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of special educators and rehabilitation specialists specially trained to teach the disabled population in the country, if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor;

(b) the reasons for the delay in setting up of Indian Sign Languages Research and Training Centre; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for starting degree/diploma courses in special education for training people of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, hearing impaired, mentally challenged and visually impaired to meet the demand in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Disability is a State subject. According to Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), there is no direct information communicated by the State Governments about the actual requirement of special educators to RCI. However, as per an evaluation study commissioned by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which submitted its report in March, 2013, there was a shortage of special teachers in the States/ UTs. As per projections got done by the RCI, 34,693 special educators were available in 2011 against a demand of 1,74,217. As on 31.07.2014 total special educators registered in the RCI's Central Rehabilitation Register are 63,318. The reasons for shortage include lack of clear policies in the respective States regarding recruitment rules, appointments, programme for preparing special educators and rehabilitation specialist, requirement of NOCs from States for programmes run under self finance mode, requirements of affiliating Universities and low remuneration paid to rehabilitation professionals, shortage of faculty at degree level within the country.

(b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had initially approved the establishment of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre, as an autonomous centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, in July, 2011. On receipt of disengagement letter from Vice Chancellor, IGNOU and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Ministry reviewed the matter and decided to establish the Centre as a stand-alone Institution under this Ministry. Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 18th July, 2014 recommended the proposal.

(c) The Rehabilitation Council of India encourages Universities, Institutions

and NGOs to establish programmes for training of special educators and rehabilitation specialists. It also develops and reviews courses at degree and diploma level continuously. A large number of courses are being run for hearing impaired, mentally challenged, visual impairment, cerebral palsy and Autism Spectrum Disorders. RCI has also been requested to take initiatives to prepare a complete database on number of special teachers trained every year to help bridge up the gap between demand and supply of special teachers.

#### Reservation in Jammu and Kashmir

†3909. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of reservation for the SCs, STs and OBCs respectively in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) whether Government would contemplate to make up the percentage of reservation, if it is less than the required level; and
- (c) whether the provision for reservation for the STs in politics exists in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) (i) Existing percentage of reservation in Jammu and Kashmir in direct recruitment to civil posts and civil services on all India basis by open competition is as follows:

Category	Percentage of reservation
Scheduled Castes (SCs)	8%
Scheduled Tribes (STs)	11%
Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	27%

- (ii) As informed by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the 'J&K Reservation Act,' 2004 and Rules there under, provide reservation for SCs, STs, Socially and Economically Backward Classes and other categories. The total percentage of reservation, however, shall in no case exceed 50%. The existing percentage of reservation in direct recruitment under the services of the State Government is as follows:

Category	Percentage of reservation
Scheduled Castes (SCs)	8%
Scheduled Tribes (STs)	10%
Socially and Economically Backward Classes (Other than Scs and STs)	25%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.