

Disabled persons

1289. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disabled persons in different States and Union Territories;

(b) the number of those who are blind and mentally retarded; and

(c) the number of those disabled happen to be so since birth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) during 58th round (July-December, 2002) estimated number of persons with disabilities in the country was 1.85 crore. Estimated number of blind and mentally retarded persons are given below:

Type of disability	No. of persons
1. Mental retardation	9.95 lakh
2. Blindness	20.13 lakh

Further details regarding State-wise prevalence of various types of disabilities are available in NSSO Report No. 485(58/26/1) entitled "Disabled persons in India".

(c) NSSO survey estimated that there were 55.99 lakh persons having disabilities since birth.

Declaring tribal sub-plan areas as Scheduled areas

†1290. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh, following the reconstitution of new districts, has submitted any proposal to the Central Government for the tribal sub-plan areas to be declared as Scheduled areas and whether the approval has been accorded;

(b) if not, by when the approval is likely to be accorded; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.