

Rights and facilities for disabled persons

3310. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the measures taken to resolve the difficulties being faced by disabled persons to ensure that they enjoy the right to equality, right to live in the community and policies framed to rehabilitate persons with disabilities and barrier-free reasonable accommodation to enable them to maintain and attain optimal physical, sensory, intellectual, psychological, environmental and social function level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): The Central Government enacted the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. The Act provides various entitlements for persons with disabilities and also mandates the appropriate Government to take measures in the areas of education, rehabilitation, employment, creating barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities to ensure their inclusion and full participation in the society.

Further, Government has recently notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 on 28.12.2016. The new Act provides for more rights and entitlements for persons with disabilities. Section 3(1) of the said Act mandates the appropriate Government to ensure that the persons with disabilities enjoy the right to equality, life with dignity and respect for his or her integrity equally with others. Section 5(1) of the Act states that the persons with disabilities shall have the right to live in the community. Section 40 of the Act mandates the Central Government to frame rules for persons with disabilities laying down the standards for accessibility for the physical environment, transportation, information, and communication, including appropriate technologies and systems, and other facilities and services provided to the public in urban and rural areas. Section 44, 45 and 46 of the Act envisages mandatory observance of accessibility norms by the establishments and service providers.

Further, with a view to create barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities in physical environment, transportation and information and communication technologies, the Government has launched Accessible India Campaign (AIC) on December 3, 2015.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under this Ministry also implements a central sector scheme, namely, Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) under which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) running projects for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

aimed at enabling them to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels.

Empowerment of artisans of SC/ST community

3311. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to empower the artisans of SC/ST community;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of SC/ST artisans and the specific economic module proposed for their empowerment, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) has been extending financial assistance to the Scheduled Castes (SC) artisans through various Channelizing Agencies under an exclusive scheme *i.e.* Shilpi Samriddhi Yojana (SSY).

The Corporation has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles on 20.02.2017. The overall objective of this MoU is to undertake economic support programmes relevant to the aspirations of SC artisans and their families.

Similarly, the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of Assistance to TRIFED empanelled Artisans. The Scheme, National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) provides concessional finance to tribal artisans empanelled with TRIFED for purchase of project related assets and working capital. Financial assistance is provided upto ₹50,000/- for individuals and upto ₹5 Lakh per Self Help Groups(SHG)/Cooperative Societies at the interest rate of 4% p.a. for Scheduled Tribes women and 6% for others.

The details of loans sanctioned by the NSFDC to Scheduled Caste beneficiary artisans amounting to States are given as follows:—