

The Scheme guidelines allow scholarship to be provided to students studying in all empanelled colleges, including private colleges

Assistance to private institutions for children with autism

2710. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance Government provides to private institutions which are running exclusively for children with autism; and

(b) how many such institutions are running in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) The National Trust, an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities provides financial assistance to its Registered Organizations (ROs) for implementation of the following schemes for Children with Autism including Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities:

- (1) Disha (Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme for 0 to 10 years)
- (2) Vikaas (Day Care Scheme for 10 + years)
- (3) Disha-cum-Vikaas (Day Care Scheme)
- (4) Samarth (Respite Care Residential Scheme)
- (5) Niramaya (Health Insurance Scheme).

Details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) Presently, the numbers of such centres running the schemes of National Trust in the country are as under:

- (1) Disha - 29 centres
- (2) Vikaas - 33 centres
- (3) Disha-cum-Vikaas - 39 centres
- (4) Samarth - 20 centres

Statement

*Details of the Schemes being implemented by the National Trust
for the welfare of the persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy,
Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities*

(i) Disha (Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme for 0-10 years)

This is an early intervention and school readiness scheme for children in the age group of 0-10 years with the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act and aims at setting up Disha Centres for early intervention for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) through therapies, trainings and providing support to family members.

(ii) Vikaas (Day Care Scheme for 10+ years)

This is a Day care scheme for Divyangjan attaining the age of 10 years and above, primarily to expand the range of opportunities available to a person with disability for enhancing interpersonal and vocational skills as they are on a transition to higher age groups. The centre will also offer caregiving support to Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) during the time the Divyangjan are in the Vikaas centre. In addition, it also helps in supporting family members of the Persons with disabilities covered under the National Trust Act to get some time during the day to fulfill other responsibilities.

(iii) Disha-cum-Vikaas (Day Care Scheme)

For the Registered Organisations, who were implementing multiple schemes, an option for implementing merged scheme was given. Based on the consent given by the ROs and the scheme guidelines, these ROs were allotted the merged Disha-cum-Vikaas Scheme (Day Care) w.e.f. 1.4.2018.

(iv) Samarth (Respite Care Residential Scheme)

The objective of Samarth scheme is to provide respite home for orphans or abandoned, families in crisis and also for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) from BPL & LIG families including destitute with at least one of the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act. It also aims at creating opportunities for family members to get respite time in order to fulfill other

responsibilities. This scheme aims at setting up Samarth Centres for providing group home facility for all age groups with adequate and quality care service with acceptable living standards including provision of basic medical care from professional doctors.

(v) **Niramaya (Health Insurance Scheme)**

The scheme is to provide affordable Health Insurance to persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. The enrolled beneficiaries get a health insurance cover upto ₹ 1.0 lakh, by paying a nominal fee.

National Commission for Senior Citizens

2711. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to constitute a National Commission for Senior Citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the amount of funds that have been allotted and utilized for research and on rehabilitation of senior citizens during the last three years, State/UT and year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is in place a National Council of Senior Citizens, which advises Central and State Governments on the entire gamut of issues related to welfare of senior citizens. It performs the role envisaged for the National Commission for Senior Citizens adequately.

Under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSRc), financial assistance in the form of grant in aid is given to the Implementing Agencies for running and maintenance of, *inter alia*, Senior Citizens Homes (Old Age Homes), Regional Resource Training Centres (RRTCs) for providing basic needs of the Senior Citizens including Research, Advocacy and Awareness generation programmes.

Details of financial assistance provided to Implementing Agencies under IPSrC during last three years, State/UT wise are given in Statement-I and Statement-II (*See below*).