

(c) and (d) Government has decided that Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission standards fuels will be implemented across the country w.e.f. 01.04.2020 and supply of BS-VI fuels in National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has been started w.e.f. 01.04.2018. Government has also started supply of BS-VI auto fuels in 20 Districts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. To meet the incremental demand of petrol and diesel, refineries have capacity expansion/upgradation plan including for supply of BS-VI quality petrol and diesel. Government has also notified the National Policy on Biofuels-2018 on 08.06.2018. An indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel is proposed by 2030. The goal is to be achieved by reinforcing ongoing ethanol/biodiesel supplies through increasing domestic production, setting up Second Generation bio-refineries, development of new feedstock for biofuels, creating suitable environment for biofuels and its integration with the main fuels etc.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the authority to grant authorization to the entities for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in Geographical Areas (GAs) as per PNGRB Act, 2006. In order to expand natural gas availability across the country, PNGRB identifies Geographical Areas for authorizing the development of CGD network in synchronization with the development of natural gas pipeline connectivity and natural gas availability.

Welfare measures for differently abled persons

†2860. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of differently-abled in the country according to census report and number of unemployed therefrom;
- (b) whether it is a fact that differently abled are one of the neglected sections of the society and they have to face a lot of problems in their daily life as well;
- (c) the details of welfare measures taken and schemes implemented to bring them into the mainstream; and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that differently-abled people do not get necessary

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

health services and if so, the action taken/to be taken to provide them with the best health services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) As per census-2011 the total number of persons with disabilities in India is 2.68 cr., out of them 1.71 cr. are non-workers.

(b) and (c) Persons with disabilities (PwDs) are one of the marginalised sections of the society. There are instances of difficulties faced by Divyangjan in accessing the facilities and benefits meant for them. The Government has taken various steps for their empowerment and inclusion. The Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD Act), 2016 which came into effect from 19.04.2017. The said Act provides various rights and entitlements for PwDs. It provides for not less than 5% reservation in seats in Govt./Govt. Aided higher educational institutions and not less than 4% reservation in Govt. Jobs for PwDs. The Act focuses on promoting education, health, social security, recreation and sports activities for PwDs.

Primarily, relief to persons with disabilities is a State subject by virtue of Entry 9 of the State list of the Constitution of India and accordingly, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to frame schemes and programmes to help PwDs live a productive and independent life. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments through its major schemes such as:—

- (i) **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP):** Under ADIP Scheme assistance is provided to persons with disabilities in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhancing their economic potential. The scheme also has a provision to support cochlear implant surgery to hearing impaired children upto 5 years of age at a cost of up to ` 6.00 lakh per child.
- (ii) **Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA):** Under this scheme, assistance is provided to State Governments and to autonomous organizations/Institutions under Central or State Governments, for various activities relating to implementation of the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, mainly for creation of barrier free environment including Accessible India Campaign and skill development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

- (iii) **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):** Under the scheme grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for their projects relating to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels.
- (iv) **Scholarship Schemes** under which the Government provides scholarships for students with disabilities such as Pre-matric (for classes IX and X), Post-matric (from class XI up to Post Graduate degree/diploma level), Top Class Education (Post graduate degree/diploma in notified institutes), National Fellowship (M.Phil. and Ph.D. courses), National Overseas Scholarship (for overseas education at P.G./Doctorate level) and Free Coaching for Students with Disabilities (SwDs).

(d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that "Public Health and Hospitals" being a State subject, the primary responsibility of provision of health services to all including differently-abled people is that of respective State/UT Governments.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched by them in 2005 to supplement the efforts of the State/UT Governments to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all especially to vulnerable people including persons with disabilities. Currently, NRHM is a sub-mission of National Health Mission (NHM).

This support under NHM includes provision of a host of free services such as maternal health, child health, adolescent health, family planning, universal immunisation programme, and for major diseases such as Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, vector borne diseases such as Malaria, Dengue and Kala Azar, Leprosy etc. Other major initiatives for which States are being supported include Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) (under which free drugs, free diagnostics, free blood and diet, free transport from home to institution, between facilities in case of a referral and drop back home is provided), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), implementation of NHM Free Drugs and Free Diagnostics Service Initiatives,

PM National Dialysis Programme and implementation of National Quality Assurance Framework.

Further, Section 25 of the RPwD Act, 2016 provides for priority in attendance and treatment of persons with disabilities.

Reservations in social welfare schemes for differently-abled

†2861. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provision in place to give reservation or priority to persons from SC/ST/OBC categories in social welfare schemes being implemented for specially-abled persons;

(b) the State-wise numbers of speciallyabled persons from SC/ST/OBC categories provided with medical aid equipments during last five years; and

(c) the State-wise percentage of specially-abled persons from SC/ST/OBC categories who could not get medical equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) allocates 16.60% and 8.60% of the total budget earmarked for various schemes to SC and ST categories respectively. However, there is no provision in place to give reservation or priority to persons from OBC categories in social welfare schemes being implemented for specially-abled persons by this Department.

(b) At present, there is no provision to provide medical aid equipments to any category of persons with disabilities.

(c) Not applicable, in view of answer to (b) above.

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