

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.301**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2021**

**Sign language in the Eighth Schedule**

**301. DR. SANTANU SEN:**

- (a) whether Government is considering to include sign language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution keeping in view that there are 18 million deaf people in India and their first language is Indian Sign Language;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the year-wise number of deaf people who are trained in proper sign language during the last five years; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to increase access to learning proper sign language, and communication skills?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**  
**(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)**

**(a) to (c)** There are adequate provisions under various sections of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for recognition, protection and preservation of the Indian Sign Language.

**(d)** The year-wise number of people (including deaf) who are trained in sign language course and enrolled in the Central Rehabilitation Register (CRR) maintained by Rehabilitation Council of India from 2016-17 onwards is as under:-

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as on 27.01.2021)	Total
34	20	10	48	38	150

Total number of people trained in sign language and enrolled in CRR till date is, however, 204.

**(e)** Government has set up Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi with the objective of developing manpower for using, teaching and conducting research in Indian Sign Language.

Two specific courses for promoting sign language have been developed i.e. Diploma in Indian Sign Language Interpretation (DISLI) and Diploma in Teaching Indian Sign Language (DTISL). 10 training institutions including ISLRTC are conducting these courses.

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