

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1100
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2021**

Fulfilling aspirations of PwDs

1100. MS. SAROJ PANDEY:

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

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to fulfill various aspirations of Divyangjan or Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the difference these measures have made in their lives, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHAN PAL GURJAR)

(a) and (b) The Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 which came into force on 19.04.2017. The Act provides various rights & entitlements for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) & mandates the appropriate Government to take measures to promote education, skill development, social security, health, rehabilitation and recreation for PwDs so that they can enjoy their rights equally with others. The Act provides special provisions for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (disability of 40% or more) which, inter-alia, include reservation in seats in Government / Government aided higher educational institutions, reservation in Government jobs, reservation in allotment of agricultural land/housing/developmental programs, poverty alleviation schemes, allotment of land on concessional rates for setting up of business etc. In addition, the Government has approved establishment of the following institutions for the welfare of Divyangjan during the last five years:

(i) Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) New Delhi: With the main objective of developing manpower for using, teaching and conducting research in Indian Sign Language.

(ii) Centres for Disability Sports at Gwalior: With the main objective of providing persons with disabilities the training facilities at par with the latest in the world so as to enable them to effectively compete and win medals in Paralympics, Deaflympics, Special Olympics and other international events for sportspersons with disabilities.

(iii) National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR): With the objective of promoting mental health rehabilitation using an integrated multidisciplinary approach and developing trained professionals in the area of mental health rehabilitation.

(iv) From 2015-16 onwards 11 new Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) have been approved as outreach Centres/extended arms of the National Institutes with the main objectives of providing rehabilitation services to all categories of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), train rehabilitation professionals, workers and functionaries, undertake programmes of education and skill development and create awareness amongst parents and the community regarding needs and rights of PwDs.

The Government is also implementing various Schemes for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Details of some of the major schemes are at Annexure.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1100 to be answered on 10.02.2021 regarding **Fulfilling aspirations of PwDs** raised by **MS. SAROJ PANDEY**.

Brief of the major schemes of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)

1. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):

Under this Central Sector Scheme financial assistance is provided to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

2. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP):

Under this Scheme, funds are released to various Implementing Agencies to assist the eligible persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) 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.

3. Scheme for the Implementation of Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA):

Under this umbrella Scheme, financial assistance is provided for undertaking various activities outlined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The major components of the Scheme are as follows:

(i) Accessible India Campaign (AIC):

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 mandates accessibility under Sections 40 to 46 of the Act. With a view to creating barrier free environment for independent and safe living of PwDs, Government launched the Accessible India Campaign (AIC) on 3rd December, 2015. AIC is being implemented under 3 pillars of built up environment, transportation system and Information & Communication Technology (ICT).

(ii) National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs):

The Government launched the **National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** in March, 2015 for skilling of PwDs through a network of empanelled training partners (ETPs) comprising Government organizations (National Institutes/National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation/Composite Regional Centres/Other Government Organisations) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

(iii) Creation of barrier free environment for Persons with Disabilities:

Under this Scheme funds are provided to the States/UTs for creation of barrier free environment by mainly providing lifts, ramps, accessible toilets, tactile flooring and accessible websites.

(iv) Unique Disability Identification (UDID) Project:

Under this project, the Government is creating a national data base for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and issuing unique identification cards to them.

4. Scholarships for Students with Disabilities:

This umbrella Scheme has six components namely; Pre-matric (Classes IX & X), Post-matric (Classes XI to Post Graduate Degree/Diploma), Top Class Education (Graduate and Post Graduate Degree/Diploma in notified Institute of Excellence in Education), National Fellowship (M. Phil/Ph. D in Indian Universities), National Overseas Scholarship (Master Degree and Ph. D in Foreign Universities) and Free Coaching (for competitive exams for group A and B posts and entrance examinations for admission to technical and professional courses).
