

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**  
**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**  
**Rajya Sabha**

**Unstarred Question No. 2715**  
**To Be Answered on 11.08.2021**

**Cross-Disability Early Intervention services to children with disabilities**

2715. **SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:**

**SHRI SANJAY SETH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched 14 Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centers at 7 National Institutes and 7 Composite Regional Centers (CRCs) and if so, details thereof and aims and objective behind the move;
- (b) the estimated number of children with disabilities in the age group of 0-6 year;
- (c) whether these Centers will provide services to children with disabilities or infants vulnerable to develop a disability and provide them early assistance to ensure optimal development of the child and if so, details thereof; and
- (d) other steps taken by Government to provide medical and rehabilitation services to all types of disabilities under one roof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT**

**(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)**

(a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has set up 14 Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centres at 7 National Institutes functioning under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, namely, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech And Hearing Disabilities - Mumbai, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities - Secunderabad, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities - Chennai, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities - Dehradun, National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities - Kolkata, Pandit Deenadayal Upadhyaya National Institute for the Persons with Physical Disabilities - New Delhi, and Swami Vivekananda National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research - Cuttack and at 7 Composite Regional Centres located at Bhopal, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Nellore, Patna, Rajnandgaon and Sundernagar.

0-6 years of a child is a critical period that determines a person's well-being, productivity, achievements and quality of life. To prevent disability and to reduce its impact by providing early intervention services, Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centres are set up with aim to provide facilities for screening and early identification of risk cases, and providing appropriate therapeutic and rehabilitative interventions including counselling facilities under a single roof in a contiguous manner.

(b) As per the Census of India 2011, there are 20.42 lakh children with disabilities in the age group of 0-6 years.

(c) Yes, sir. These Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centres provide the following services:

(i) Screening and identification of risk cases and referring for appropriate intervention services.

(ii) Therapeutic services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech stimulation and therapy, behavioural management, and cognitive development.

(iii) Parental counselling and training and peer counselling;

(iv) School-readiness to improve communication, language and foundational literacy.

(d) The Ministry has set up National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres which provide disability-specific rehabilitation services under one roof. Some of the National Institutes such as Swami Vivekananda National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research - Cuttack and National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities - Kolkata also conduct corrective surgeries.

The Ministry also provides financial assistance to the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres set up by the States/UTs for providing rehabilitation services to Persons with Disabilities.

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