

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.778
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

POLICY FOR IMPROVING DRCS

778 Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal:

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

- (a) number of Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DRCs) existing in the country;
- (b) whether any policy has been undertaken by Government to improve the quality of DRCs in the country;
- (c) whether the policy for improving the quality of DRCs has been able to achieve the objective for which it was established, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the total amount released by Government for improving the quality of DRCs during each of the last three years and the current year and the actual amount spent thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI A. NARAYANASWAMY)

(a): This Ministry is implementing a Scheme “District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC)” under the Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), a Central Sector Scheme, under which financial assistance is provided to set up and operate DDRCs at District level. 269 District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRCs) have been established in the country so far. The State-wise details of DDRCs set up in the country are given at **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The objectives of DDRCs are to provide early identification and intervention, awareness generation, assessment of need/provision/fitment of assistive devices, therapeutic services like physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, referral and arrangement of surgical correction, assistance in providing scholarships, skill training, loans for self-employment, survey and identification of PwDs through camp approach, assistance in the issue of Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards, to act as outreach centre for the services provided by the National Institutes and promoting barrier free environment.

The following measures have been taken to improve the quality of DDRCs:

(i) To assess the impact of DDRCs under the DDRS scheme, an impact evaluation study of the scheme of DDRS was carried out in 2021 by the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD), an autonomous organisation under the NITI Aayog. In its finding, NILERD has reported satisfaction about the effective implementation of DDRC Scheme which has brought a remarkable achievement in the lives of Divyangjans in the country with its wide range of activities and objectives. The recommendations of the study indicated that additional DDRCs need to be established in the country and that their establishment may be linked to the disabled population of the district. The revised scheme guidelines effective from 01.04.2022 have incorporated provisions for including all districts of the country being eligible for setting up DDRCs as against the initially identified 325 districts only; rehabilitation professionals being appointed on part-time basis in view of the shortage of such professionals across the country and mandatorily appointing at least 4 rehabilitation professionals for running DDRCs to provide rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities (PwDs). The Expenditure Finance Committee has recommended continuation of the DDRS Scheme for a period of next five years from financial year 2021-22.

(ii) The Ministry has so far upgraded 9 better performing DDRCs to Model DDRCs at their existing locations. These Model DDRCs have been mandated to provide at least the minimum facilities/services to the Divyangjans. Guidelines/facilities issued to the model DDRCs in this regard are at **Annexure II**.

(iii) Further, a Central Programme Monitoring Unit (CPMU) team has been recently created for inspection and close monitoring of the projects under the schemes of the Ministry, including DDRC Scheme. The PMU team/members are mandated to conduct surprise Inspection of the DDRCs and to monitor the performance and quality of services rendered by the DDRCs.

(d): No such separate data of the amount released by the Government for improving the quality of DDRCs is maintained in the Ministry.

Annexure I

Annexure I referred to in part (a) of the reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 778 for 08.02.2023 regarding “Policy for improving DRCs”

List of 269 DDRCs set up in the country as on 31.01.2023

S. No.	States/UTs	Set up (Funds given at least once to the Centres)	
		No.	Name of Districts
1	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1	Port Blair
2	Lakshadweep	0	
3	Andhra Pradesh	12	Anantpur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Kurnool, Nellore, Prakasam, Srikakkulam, Vishakapatnam, Vizianagaram, West Godavari
4	Arunachal Pradesh	3	East Kamang, Itanagar (Naharlagun), Tawang
5	Assam	13	Barpeta, Cachar, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Jorhat, Karimganj, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Silchar, Sivasagar, Tezpur (Sonitpur),
6	Bihar	23	Araria, Aurangabad, Banka, Begusarai, Bhojpur, Chapra, Darbhanga, East Champaran, Gaya, Jehanabad, Kaimur, Katihar, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nawada, Purnia, Samastipur, Sitamarhi, Supaul, Vaishali, West Champaran
7	Chandigarh	0	
8	Chattishgarh	7	Bastar, Dhamtari, Durg, Jashpur, Raigarh, Raipur, Rajnandgaon
9	Dadra & Nagra Haveli and Daman & Diu	2	Silvassa, Diu
10	Delhi	0	
11	Goa	1	Panaji
12	Gujarat	12	Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Bhavnagar, Dahod, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Nadiad, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, Surendranagar, Vadodara
13	Haryana	5	Fatehabad, Hissar, Kurukshetra, Rohtak, Sonapat

14	Himachal Pradesh	5	Bilaspur, Kullu (in place of Chamba), Dharamsala, Kinnaur, Shimla
15	Jammu & Kashmir	7	Anantnag, Baramulla, Doda, Jammu, Kupwara, Poonch, Udhampur
16	Jharkhand	6	Dhanbad, Dumka, Hazaribag, Jamshedpur, Palamu, Ranchi
17	Karnataka	8	Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Gulbarga, Kolar, Mandya, Mangalore, Tumkur
18	Kerala	3	Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur
19	Ladakh	1	Leh
20	Madhya Pradesh	24	Agar, Alote (Ratlam), Balaghat, Chindwara, Damoh, Dewas, Guna, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Jawad, Jhabua, Khandwa, Khargaon, Mandsaur, Rajgarh, Rewa, Sagar, Satna, Sehore, Shajapur, Shivpuri, Ujjain, Vidisha
21	Maharashtra	12	Amravati, Aurangabad, Buldana, Dadar/Mahim, Gondia, Hingoli, Jalgaon, Latur, Nagpur, Pune, Solapur, Wardha
22	Manipur	6	Churachandpur, Imphal, Imphal West, Thoubal, Ukul, Bishnupur
23	Meghalaya	5	East Garo Hills, Jantia Hills, Shillong, West Garo Hills, West Khasi Hills
24	Mizoram	3	Aizwal, Kolasib+Mamit, Lunglei+Lawngtlai
25	Nagaland	1	Dimapur
26	Odisha	10	Ganjam, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nabrangpur, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak
27	Puducherry	2	Karaikal, Puducherry
28	Punjab	8	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, Moga, Nawanshahr, Patiala, Sangrur
29	Rajasthan	12	Ajmer, Alwar, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Chittorgarh, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Pali, Tonk, Udaipur
30	Sikkim	1	Gangtok
31	Tamil Nadu	7	Kanyakumari, Madurai, Perambalur, Salem, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Virudhunagar

32	Telangana	5	Karimnagar, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Warangal, Rangareddy
33	Tripura	4	Agartala (West Tripura), Dhalai, North Tripura, South Tripura
34	Uttar Pradesh	41	Agra, Aligarh, Prayagraj, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Balia, Balrampur, Barabanki, Bareilly, Basti, Budaun, Bulandshahr, Deoria, Farrukhabad, Ghazipur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Hardoi, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kanpur Dehat, Kheri, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Mathura, Mau, Meerut, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh, Raibarielly, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar, Sitapur, Unnao, Varanasi
35	Uttarakhand	6	Almorah, Bageshwar, Haridwar, Nainital, Tehri Garwal, Udham Singh Nagar
36	West Bengal	12	Bankura, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Cooch Behar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Hooghly, Howrah, Jalpaigudi, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Purulia
	Total	269	

Annexure II referred to in part (b) and (c) of the reply to the Rajya Sabha unstarred Question No. 778 for 08.02.2023 regarding “Policy for improving DRCs”

Guidelines/features of MODEL DDRC

A. Features added in revised DDRC scheme:

1. Provision of 04 visiting rehabilitation professionals (Clinical Psychologist/rehab psychologist, Sr. Physiotherapist/ Occupational therapist, Sr. Prosthetics/orthotist, audiologist and Sr. Speech therapist) on call basis
2. DDRC shall preferably be in or near to District hospital/DEIC.
3. Provision of maximum admissible manpower enhanced from 12 to 15
4. Mandatory to appoint at least 4 rehabilitation professional
5. DDRC scheme is now fully on reimbursement basis.

B. Specific features added in Model DDRC

1. Hearing aids trial/test lab
2. Speech therapy room
3. Visual impairment room
4. Psychologist's room
5. Physiotherapist room with parallel bar for gait training
6. Provision of tele-therapy/tele-medicine.
7. The Model DDRC may also opt for additional facilities and equipments in addition to the suggested list indicated in the revised guidelines of DDRC as available on the website of this department. This however shall be driven by demand in a given area and budget constraints.
8. Regarding hiring of human resources and purchase of equipments, the reimbursement of funds shall be strictly as per revised DDRC scheme guidelines.
9. Features of a Model DDRC
 - UDID registration assistance to PwDs.
 - To act as implementing agency for periodic assessment as well distribution of assistive devices/equipment to be distributed through ALIMCO/authorized agencies which is presently only under camp mode.
 - Provide gait practice parallel bar facility with assistance of ALIMCO
 - Publicity of various welfare schemes of department through standees, banners, touch screens and other modes in local languages. Touch screens for publicity may be arranged by DMT through CSR/state funds
 - Integrating DDRCs with nearest CRC and further to NIs, in need of higher level assistance to PwDs
 - Sufficient space for smooth conduct of all activities of DDRCs
 - To act as extended arm of nearest CRC/NI under a "Hub & Spoke" model.
 - DDRC infrastructure requirement should be commensurate to the services being provided. As an example, it can have 7-10 rooms for therapeutic & other services, wash room (optional), audiometry room(optional), drinking water facilities and a common entrance cum waiting area, with all relevant barrier free accessibility features.
 - A separately designed entrance gate for identification of model DDRC.
