

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2694
ANSWERED ON- 18/12/2024

EDUCATION OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED BOYS AND GIRLS

2694. SHRI MAYANKBHAI JAYDEVBHAI NAYAK

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

(a) whether any notable work is being done in the field of education, rehabilitation and skill development of visually impaired boys and girls in the national institutions running across the country under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the activities being carried out by Government in the field of welfare and education of visually impaired persons?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

(a) National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun is running a Senior Secondary Model School for the Children with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan) at Dehradun, Uttarakhand affiliated to CBSE, and is imparting education to 248 children with visual impairment from Class Nursery to Class 12th.

NIEPVD provided Accessible learning material to children with visual impairment are as follow:

1. E-Pub/Daisy
2. Human narrated recording
3. Large Print/Audio Books
4. OCR- Structure E-Pub without proofreading
5. Tactile Diagrams
6. Online service through Sugamya Pustakalya

National Institutes are imparting vocational training and on-the-job training/skill training, rehabilitation services to children and also extending support for placement/ self employment of persons with disabilities including visually impaired.

(b) The Department is implementing schemes for the welfare of persons with disabilities including education to visually impaired children. Details of the schemes are annexed.

Annexure

Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) - Financial assistance is provided to the voluntary organizations for running Special Schools for the children with visual disability (including deaf blindness) with option for Home Based Rehabilitation and Community-Based Rehabilitation Project and Low Vision Centre Project.

Department is implementing the scheme of 'Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) under which funds are released to various Implementing Agencies to assist the eligible persons with disabilities including Visually Impaired 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 throughout the country. Various types of aids and assistive devices distributed to Persons with Visual Impairment are Accessible Smart Phone, Smart Cane, Low Vision Aids, Teaching Learning Material (TLM) Kits etc.

To enhance skills of Persons with Disabilities to enable them to have gainful employment and to become self-reliant, productive and contributing members of society and stand up on their own feet, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities launched the National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP) in March 2015. Under NAP-SDP, for imparting skill training to persons with disabilities in the age group of 15 to 59 years including Visually Impaired, boys and girls. Training under the NAP-SDP scheme is being provided through various Government and Non-Government Organizations, empanelling as training partners (ETPs) with the Department. These Government and Non-Government Organizations provide skilling across the Country.

Department has launched PM-DAKSH Portal-DEPwD on September 2023 for effective implementation of National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs (NAP-SDP). This portal is a one-stop digital destination for PwDs, who need skilling and employment, and for Training organizations and Employers/job aggregators of PwDs.

Tuition fees are reimbursed through the National Institutes under the Department for 100% blind students pursuing STEM subjects from Class 9 to Class 12 under the National Fund of the Department.

Assistance for establishment/modernization/capacity enhancement of Braille Press: The project has expended its coverage to students from basic level to higher education level. The popular accessible format under its include: Talking Books (Narrated), E-Pub/Digital, and Large Print, Tactile Pages. A total 25 Braille presses/implementation institutes are providing services across the country under this project by 2023-24.
