

[3 March, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

Functioning of the National Minority Finance and Development Corporation

1201. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) the main functions of the National Minority Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the funds allocated to it during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the procedure and criteria for allocating the funds to State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMFDC) provides loans to persons belonging to minorities living below double the poverty line for undertaking income generating activities. It also provides micro-credit to the poorest of poor among the minorities, organized in Self Help Groups and has also started a new scheme for Educational Loan.

(b) A sum of Rs. 25.00 crore and Rs. 15.26 crore was released to National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation during 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

(c) The allocation of funds to various State Channelising Agencies of the State Governments is decided on the basis of their performance in the previous year and the availability of funds during that year.

Handicapped persons in the country

1202. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of handicapped persons in the country;

(b) the effect of environmental degradation on the increase in their population; and

(c) the budget allocation/expenditure on them during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) According to the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) In 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be suffering from some kind of disability.

(b) No impact study has been conducted to determine the correlation of environmental degradation with the increase in population of persons with disabilities.

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for programmes related to the disabilities sector during the last three years is given below:

| Year | (Rs. in crores) |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 1999-2000 | 164.09 |
| 2000-2001 | 246.64 |
| 2001-2002 | 272.25 |

Problems of autism among children

1203. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any nodal agency to look into the problems of autism amongst children in the country;

(b) whether there is any estimate of the number of autistic people in the country;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to assist them;

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(e) the future steps and innovative measures proposed to be taken by Government to improve their status?