

Q. Discuss the various initiatives of the government of India to address the problems of people with disabilities.

Answer:— December 3 is marked by the UN as International Day of persons with Disabilities in a bid to promote a inclusive and accessible world for the differently-abled and to raise awareness for their rights.

→ As per the data from National Statistics office (NSO), about 2.2% of India's population lives with some kind of physical and/or mental disability.

→ Until the 2011 census, there were questions on 7 kinds of disabilities in the questionnaire. This list of disabilities was expanded to 21 when the Right of People with Disabilities was introduced in 2016.

→ Rural men (than women) had the highest prevalence of disability in India of "disability is more prevalent in rural area than urban", by the NSO report. The 2019 edition of disability statistics reported a slightly higher prevalence than those reported earlier edition of survey.

→ Like other disadvantaged groups, the disabled in India are entitled to some benefits, ranging from reservation in educational institutions to concessions on railway tickets.

→ There are some measures taken by govt. for the disabled persons:

- ① Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme by the Min. Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ② "Saksham Scholarship" scheme for student with disabilities in Technical Education.
- ③ The subject of "relief of the disabled and unemployable" is specified in the state list of 7th schedule of the constitution.
- ④ Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP).
- ⑤ Accessible India Campaign: (creation of Accessible Environment for PwDs.
- ⑥ National Fellowship for students with Disabilities.

→ However, still there are some issues regarding health, education, employment, accessibility, discrimination / social exclusion, inadequate data & statistics, poor implementation of policies & schemes of the disabled persons. This needs to be sort out effectively.

with various NGOs (Nationally & internationally) we can effectively implement the existing policies & make disabled persons happy with their living.