

Inputs for the Questionnaire by Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members – Thematic Report to United Nations Human Rights Council (47th Session, June 2021)

S. No.	Questionnaire for the Thematic Report to the Human Rights Council	Response
1.	Please provide information on measures, including laws, affirmative policies and public-private partnerships, taken to guarantee equal job opportunities to persons affected by leprosy and their family members and ensure their right to decent work and inclusion in the formal labor market.	<p>a. India's National Leprosy Eradication Programme has achieved enormous success in leprosy control, particularly in the last four decades. Leprosy elimination, which means Prevalence Rate < 1 case/10,000 population, was achieved at the national level in 2005. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is consistently taking steps for active early case detection in order to make India leprosy free.</p> <p>b. Active Case Detection and Regular Surveillance has been strengthened, both in rural and urban areas, in order to ensure detection of leprosy cases on regular basis and at an early stage in order to prevent grade II disabilities.</p> <p>c. In order to strengthen the integrated approach, leprosy screening has been converged under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (National Child Health Programme) and Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (National Adolescent Health Programme) for screening of children (0-18 years) and under Ayushman Bharat Yojana (National Health Programme) for screening of people above 30 years of age.</p> <p>d. The Government has made diagnostic tests and Multi-Drug Therapy available free of cost at all Government Health Facilities in the country. Likewise, all aids and appliances needed for the persons with disabilities due to leprosy are provided free of cost by the Government.</p> <p>e. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD), 2016 has been passed by the Parliament that protects the rights of persons with disability due to leprosy:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act provides various rights and entitlements which <i>inter alia</i> include equality and non-discrimination, community life, protection against cruelty and inhuman treatment, access to justice, legal capacity etc. • The Act mandates the appropriate Governments to frame schemes and programmes in the area of social security, health, rehabilitation, recreation, skill development etc. for effective empowerment and

		<p>inclusion of persons with disabilities, including leprosy-cured persons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the rights and entitlements envisaged in RPwD Act are applicable to leprosy-cured persons who have valid disability certificates. • The RPwD Act has explicit provisions prohibiting discrimination on the ground of disability. Since leprosy-cured is a recognized disability under the new law, discrimination against leprosy-cured persons is thus prohibited. The Act has penal provisions for violation of its provisions to ensure effective implementation. • The Act mandates not less than 4% reservation in Government vacancies for persons with benchmark disabilities which include leprosy cured persons. • It also provides for 5% reservation in seats for persons with benchmark disabilities including leprosy cured persons in Government/ Government aided higher educational institutions. • The Act mandates the appropriate Governments to provide not less than 5% reservation in all poverty alleviation schemes for the benefit of PwDs; to provide aids and appliances and for preferential allotment of land at concessional rate for the purpose of housing, setting up of business etc. for persons with disabilities which include leprosy-cured persons. • Disability Certificates are provided to Leprosy Cured Persons whose disability is 40% or more by the District Medical Officers. In order to apply online for the certificate, and receive the same in the digital form, the Government of India recently started implementing the Unique Disability ID project through a national web portal (http://www.swavlambancard.gov.in/). So far, 17,973 leprosy cured persons have registered online. <p>f. Under the revised Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances, for Leprosy Affected, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has notified a common Assistive Daily Living Kit to be procured and distributed by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur.</p> <p>g. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, namely, Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme under which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations running projects for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities aimed at enabling them to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to voluntary organizations for undertaking various activities (model projects) related to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. One of these model projects</p>
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2.	Please provide information on social benefits put in place to respond specifically to the humanitarian crisis faced by persons affected and their families as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.	<p>During COVID – 19 pandemic, strategy Guidelines were issued to all States/UTs in order to ensure the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uninterrupted supply of Multi Drug Therapy to leprosy patients during the lockdown due to COVID-19; • Uninterrupted DPMR services to leprosy patients suffering from physical disabilities. <p>It is being done through tracking of leprosy patients amidst the COVID – 19 pandemic and ensuring that their treatment is continued in a seamless manner at the places they have migrated to. A number of such patients were successfully tracked and treated by various states/UTs.</p>