

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *45
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 9.12.2022

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

***45. DR. AMAR PATNAIK:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Central Government websites that are in compliance with the guidelines for digital accessibility under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the 2009 Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW), as of December 2022;
- (b) the data on Government websites that are in compliance with these guidelines, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Ministry is considering policy proposals including, but not restricted to have time-bound guidelines ensuring compliance of the afore-mentioned accessibility guidelines and requirements;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. *45 FOR 09.12.2022 REGARDING DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY OF
GOVERNMENT WEBSITES**

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(a): Section 40 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides that the Central Government shall, in consultation with the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, formulate rules for persons with disabilities laying down the standards of accessibility for information and communications, including appropriate technologies and systems. Rule 15 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 made under the Act provides the website standard as specified in the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW). The said Act is administered by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

As per the information provided by the Department, 95 websites of the Central Government were made accessible to persons with disabilities before the Covid pandemic. Websites are certified as being compliant with GIGW by the Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification Directorate, after audit. The validity period of such certification is three years. The entrustment and carrying out of re-certification audits could not be taken up during the period of the pandemic. As a result, as on date, as per information furnished by the said Directorate, 45 websites of the Central Government are certified as compliant with GIGW.

(b): The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities had sanctioned in 2017 a project to be implemented by ERNET India for making 917 websites of State and Union territories. Under the project, a total of 647 websites have been made accessible. A list of the same is at Annexure.

(c) to (e): The standards are mandated by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which is administered by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, and policy proposals relating to the administration of the Act lie in the purview of that Ministry.

Rule 15(2) of the Rights of Person with Disabilities Rules, 2017 provides that the respective Ministries and Departments shall ensure compliance of the standards of accessibility specified under the rule. As such, the policy for compliance is already laid out in the rules.

State/UTs Websites in compliance with GIGW	
State/UTs	Number of Websites
Andhra Pradesh	15
Chandigarh	28
Chattisgarh	86
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11
Daman & Diu	9
Delhi	61
Goa	18
Gujarat	20
Haryana	64
Himachal Pradesh	24
Jammu & Kashmir	20
Jharkhand	39
Karnataka	4
Madhya Pradesh	40
Maharashtra	23
Meghalaya	34
Odisha	1
Puducherry	60
Punjab	45
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	5
Tripura	20
Uttar Pradesh	18
TOTAL	647
