

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2524
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023

ACCESSIBILITY TO DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PERSONS

2524 Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik:

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

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government to provide accessibility in Government buildings/public places and public transport to differently abled persons and the achievement made so far, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of Government websites and those that have been made accessible and the targeted timeline, if any, to make all websites accessible?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a): The Government is working with all the States/UTs to promote accessibility and exclusivity of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The government has launched a nation-wide flagship campaign, Accessible India Campaign, for achieving universal accessibility which focuses on enhancing the accessibility of Built-up Environment, Transportation System and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem to make the life of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) more convenient. Under Accessible India Campaign, the Ministry provides grant in aid to State/UT governments for selected identified government buildings for retrofitting. To promote accessibility and generate awareness, the Ministry conducts online/offline meetings/workshops, issues letters/reminders from time to time.

Further, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has been implementing a central sector umbrella Scheme, viz., Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA). Under the 'Creation of Barrier Free Environment', a component of the SIPDA Scheme, financial assistance is provided to State/UT Governments including autonomous organizations/ National Institutions/ Universities run by central/state Governments for making existing Government buildings accessible.

In this regard, achievement made so far under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment and Accessible India Campaign sub-scheme of SIPDA is attached at **Annexure-I**.

(b): Rule 15(2) framed under the provisions of Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mentions that the respective Ministries and Departments shall ensure compliance of the standards of accessibility specified under the Rule through the concerned domain regulators or otherwise.

While RPwD Act, clause-40, prescribes accessibility standards regarding the websites, the WCAG guidelines level-A compliance order was issued by MEITY in 2009. Thereafter GIGW guidelines were issued by MEITY in 2009 and 2018 (2nd Edition) have incorporated WCAG guidelines. Further, MIETY has adopted latest guidelines for Accessibility for the ICT products and Services part I and part II. The guidelines are notified by Bureau of Indian Standards of Part I in e-gazette dated 24.12.2021 (Ref: HQ-PUB013/1/2020-PUB-BIS) and Part II on 04.05.2022 (Ref. HQ-PUB013/1/2020-PUB-BIS) respectively.

Futhermore, Section 42 (Access to information and communication technology) of the RPwD Act, 2016 mandates that the appropriate Government shall take measures to ensure that-

- (i) All contents available in audio, print and electronic media are in accessible format;
- (ii) Persons with disabilities have access to electronic media by providing audio description, sign language interpretation and close captioning;
- (iii) Electronic goods and equipment which are meant for everyday use are available in universal design.

In all these matters, the MeITY is the nodal ministry for the central government as also for the State / UT governments through necessary facilitation from time to time.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2524 raised by Shri **Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik** for answer on 22.03.2023 regarding “**Accessibility to Differently-Abled Persons**”

Achievements made under the targets of the Accessible India Campaign

Sl No	Target	Status
1	<p>Target of enhancing the proportion of Accessible Government Buildings:</p> <p>Target 1.1: Completing accessibility audit of at least 25-50 most important government buildings in 50 cities and making them fully accessible;</p> <p>Target 1.2: Making 50% of all the government buildings of the National Capital and all the State Capitals fully accessible;</p> <p>Target 1.3: Completing accessibility audit of 50% of government buildings and making them fully accessible in 10 most important cities/towns of states not covered in targets 1.1 and 1.2;</p>	<p>For Target (1.1) – State Government buildings</p> <p>In the State Governments / UTs, auditors completed Access Audit of 1671 buildings in 48 cities. 1671 access audit reports have been submitted to the State’s/UTs Nodal Officers. Further, financial proposals for retrofitting of 1484 buildings have been received so far. Sanction has been issued by the Department in respect 1314 buildings and 20 States/UTs have reported to have completed retrofitting work in 609 buildings.</p> <p>For Target 1.2 and 1.3</p> <p>8 States/UTs have informed that 2851 State Government buildings have been selected to be made accessible under Targets/Phases (1.2) and (1.3) from their own funds and reported work completion in 354 buildings.</p> <p>For Central Government building under the targets of built up environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">In the Central Government, CPWD reported completion of retrofitting work in 1100 Central Government buildings targeted under Accessible India Campaign.
2	<p>Target of enhancing the proportion of Accessible Airports</p> <p>Target 2.1 and 2.2 - Airports: All international airports and domestic airports to be made fully accessible;</p>	<p>All 35 international airports & 55 out of 69 domestic airports provided with accessibility features (ramps, accessible toilets, helpdesks and lifts with Braille and auditory information systems), Further, all international/customs airport are reported to have been provided with aerobridges.</p>
3	<p>Target of enhancing the proportion of Accessible Railway Stations</p> <p>Target 3.1 and 3.2 - Railways: A1, A & B categories of railway stations to be made fully accessible; 50% of all railway stations to be made fully accessible;</p>	<p>All 709 A1, A & B category railway stations have been made fully accessible, 4068 railway stations have been made partially accessible.</p>
4	<p>Target of enhancing the</p>	<p>MoRTH reported that as on 04.07.2022, out of 1,45,747</p>

	<p>proportion of Accessible Public Transport</p> <p>Target 4.1 - Buses: 10% of Government owned public transport carriers are to be made fully accessible;</p>	<p>buses, 42,348 (29.05%) buses are partially accessible and 8,695 (5.96%) buses are fully accessible and out of 3533 bus station, 3120 are made accessible in respect of 24 States/UTs.</p>
5	<p>Target of Enhancing proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites</p> <p>Target 5.1 and 5.2 - Websites: At least 50% of Central and State Government websites are to meet accessibility standards; 50% of all public documents issued by the Central and State Governments meet accessibility standards;</p>	<p>A total of 632 State Governments' websites have been made accessible including 476 websites made live so far.</p> <p>95 websites of Central Government Ministries/Departments are made accessible by MEITY under the Content Management Framework so far.</p>
6	<p>Target 6.1 – Sign Language Interpreters Training and Developing 200 additional sign language interpreters:</p>	<p>The Government has established Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, in September 2015. The main objective of the Centre is to develop manpower for using, teaching and conducting research in Indian Sign Language.</p> <p>ISLRTC has informed that more than 1000 persons have been trained in Indian sign language through Diploma and Short Term Courses of ISLRTC.</p> <p>Total 116 students have completed Diploma in Indian Sign Language Interpretation (DISLI) course in three academic sessions during 2016-17 to 2019-21. ISLRTC is currently running DISLI course for the academic year 2020-22 having total 77 students.</p>
7	<p>Target 7.1 and 7.2 - T.V Viewing:</p> <p>(a) Public television news – National standards on captioning and sign language interpretation are to be created and adopted;</p> <p>(b) At least 25% of public television programmes on government channels are to comply with the set standards</p>	<p>Accessibility standards for accessible TV viewing by persons with hearing impairment have already been issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) for providing for sub-titling, sign language interpretation along with accessibility for televisions sets, remote controls, equipment and internet content. Further, MoIB has to formulate similar guidelines for other disabilities including visual impairment.</p> <p>Accessible content on TV is also being enhanced in a phased manner and so far 19 private news channels are telecasting partially accessible news bulletin, 2447 news bulletins have been telecast with subtitling/sign-language interpretation and more than 3686 scheduled programs/movies using subtitling have been telecast by general entertainment channels.</p>

State-wise status of Government buildings funded and reported work completion under the Accessible India Campaign

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Buildings funded	No. of Buildings which are reported to be completed by State Government
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	25	23
2.	Andhra Pradesh	38	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	23	0
4.	Assam	24	0
5.	Bihar	21	21
6.	Chhattisgarh	47	20
7.	Chandigarh	43	39
8.	Delhi	18	12
9.	Goa	30	0
10.	Gujarat	46	24
11.	Haryana	64	3
12.	Himachal Pradesh	11	0
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	32	7
14.	Jharkhand	14	0
15.	Karnataka	47	0
16.	Kerala	28	0
17.	Lakshadweep	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	89	0
19.	Maharashtra	142	135
20.	Manipur	28	0
21.	Meghalaya	24	17
22.	Mizoram	33	23
23.	Nagaland	29	10
24.	Odisha	40	26
25.	Puducherry	29	0
26.	Punjab	20	2
27.	Rajasthan	88	78
28.	Sikkim	35	30
29.	Tamil Nadu	30	15
30.	Telangana	16	7
31.	Tripura	14	0
32.	Uttarakhand	16	9
33.	Uttar Pradesh	137	87
34.	West Bengal	33	21
35.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
Total		1314	609

State-wise status of Government buildings funded under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment sub-scheme of SIPDA

Since FY 2014-15 to 2022-23 (as 28.02.2023)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of buildings funded
1	Andhra Pradesh	4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	50
3	Assam	1
4	Chhattisgarh	1
5	Gujarat	1
6	Himachal Pradesh	2
7	Jammu & Kashmir	2
8	Jharkhand	1
9	Kerala	1
10	Madhya Pradesh	649
11	Maharashtra	2
12	Manipur	1
13	Meghalaya	22
14	Mizoram	3
15	Nagaland	13
16	Odisha	1
17	Punjab	24
18	Rajasthan	11
19	Sikkim	1
20	Tripura	6
21	Uttarakhand	45
22	Uttar Pradesh	42
23	West Bengal	3
24	Puducherry	4
