

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2811
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.03.2023

ACCESSIBILITY TO ICT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

2811. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that in India about 60 million people are disabled and 42.5 per cent of them are women while 75 per cent of people with disabilities come from rural areas and that they are subject to a confluence of barriers to accessibility including inaccessible and unaffordable technologies, inaccessible websites and unsupportive laws;
- (b) whether Government proposes to introduce legislation/policy in their favor; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): The Government is cognizant of various barriers to accessibility for persons with disabilities. As per the 2011 census, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities, of whom 44% were females and 69% were resident in rural areas.

(b) and (c): Government has taken extensive legislative and policy measures to empower and enable persons with disabilities to realise their full potential and to remove barriers to accessibility faced by them. These include the following:

- (i) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 has been enacted to provide various rights for persons with disabilities. These are the right to equality and non-discrimination, right to protection from cruelty and inhuman treatment, right to protection from abuse, violence and exploitation, right to protection and safety, right to live with family, right to live in community, right to access to justice, right to accessibility in voting, right to legal capacity, right to provision for guardianship, right to health, right to education, right to employment, right to skill development, right to culture and recreation and right to sporting activities. The Act also provides for formulation of rules laying down the standards of accessibility for the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including appropriate technologies and systems, and other facilities and services provided to the public for persons with disabilities. It also provides that the appropriate Government shall take measures to ensure that contents available in the media are in accessible format, persons with disabilities have access to electronic media, and electronic goods and equipment meant for every day use are available in universal design.
- (ii) Pursuant to the aforesaid provisions regarding accessibility, the Central Government has made the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017, which specify the aforesaid standards relating to physical environment, transport and information and communication technology and provides for compliance of the same by the respective Ministries and Departments.
- (iii) 95 websites of Central Government Ministries and Departments have been made accessible by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under its Content Management Framework project.
- (iv) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has informed that it has made 676 websites of various States and Union territories accessible under its Accessible India Campaign, in coordination with ERNET, an autonomous scientific society under MeitY.
