

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3318
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE SPECIALLY-ABLED PERSONS

3318. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the current infrastructure present in the public and working spaces is sufficient for the mobility of specially-abled persons;
- (b) if not, the steps being taken by the government in the direction of ensuring inclusivity in these spaces; and
- (c) the future provisions for the better mobility of specially-abled persons?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As per the Rights for Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, Sections 45-46, public buildings shall be made accessible in accordance with the 'Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons with Disability and Elderly Persons, 2016' as notified under RPwD Rules.

The RPwD Rule 15(1) framed under the provisions of Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mentions that every establishment shall comply with the following standards relating to physical environment, transport and information and communication technology namely Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly persons as issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Urban Development in March 2016.

In addition to the above, under Accessible India Campaign, total of 1709 Central and State/UT buildings have been made accessible for the ease of accessibility for Persons with Disabilities. Apart from AIC which is a flagship programme of this Department which is moving towards its closure by March 2024, DEPwD also accepts proposals for retrofitting of buildings all round the year under its sub-component of SIPDA scheme "Creation of Barrier Free Environment".

This Department is also administering the provision of Rule 15(2) framed under RPwD Rules 2017, which 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 respectively. So far, 20 Ministries/Departments are currently formulating their sector specific guidelines out of which three Ministries/Departments have notified their guidelines in e-gazette, whereas others are at various stages of finalization of the same.
