

O.I.H.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1182
TO BE ANSWERED ON JULY 31, 2023**

DISABLED FRIENDLY URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER SMART CITIES

ACTION PLAN

NO. 1182. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of *Housing and Urban Affairs* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note that more than 80 lakh disabled population resides in urban areas;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to make urban infrastructure specially disabled friendly in view of their increasing migration to urban areas;
- (c) whether Government has specifically included a component of disabled-friendly infrastructure under the Smart Cities Action Plan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof pertaining to the State of Uttar Pradesh along with the measures taken therefor in the State?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)**

(a) to (d) : Government of India launched Smart Cities Mission (SCM) on 25 June 2015. 100 Smart Cities have been selected through 4 rounds of competition from January 2016 to June 2018. The objective of SCM is to promote cities with good core infrastructure, decent quality of life, clean and sustainable environment through application of 'Smart' solutions. Smart City Plans (SCPs) of each of these cities have been evolved through extensive consultation with citizens and therefore reflect the needs and aspirations of their local constituents. These plans have been prepared in adherence to the Mission Guidelines, which in Section 3.1, includes inclusiveness as an important feature of Smart Cities. Developing infrastructure and services to cater to the differentiated needs of the disabled population is integral to the concept of inclusiveness.

Retrofitting of all the Central Government buildings across the country owned by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for accessibility, as mandated under 'Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan', has been completed by Central Public Works Department (CPWD). MoHUA has circulated 'Harmonised Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India, 2021' and 'Model Building Bye-Laws (MBBL), 2016', containing accessibility guidelines for guidance of the States and Union Territories (UTs). The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has also been implementing the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA) for providing financial assistance to State/UT Governments to provide barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities.

Smart Cities have also taken up projects dedicated specifically to the requirements of the specially-abled people. Pune, Vishakhapatnam, Chennai & Warangal Smart Cities have developed specially-abled park that has equipments and activities designed and installed for people with special needs. Chandigarh Smart City has procured battery operated cart for easing the movement of elderly and specially-abled people. Similarly, Nagpur Smart City is undertaking project of procurement and distribution of E-rickshaws to specially-abled people that will help in generating livelihood for them. Jammu Smart City has provisioned hydraulic lift system for boarding and de-boarding of specially-abled persons with wheelchairs in all the 100 electric buses and has also used tactile tiles also in the footpaths that will assist the movement of disabled persons. Kohima Smart City has transformed its Government buildings into disabled-friendly buildings.

In the State of Uttar Pradesh, various projects for specially-abled persons have been developed by the Smart Cities. Lucknow Smart City has deployed 30 Annie-self learning Braille devices in 2 Smart Braille Classes that helps visually impaired to learn to read, write and type in Braille on their own through interactive audio and touch guide content. Lucknow Smart City is also developing a park keeping in view differential recreational, divyang sports facility, counseling & therapy centre and training school etc. Prayagraj Smart City has also constructed a park for specially-abled Children. Kanpur Smart City has developed Palika Sports Stadium that has facilities suitable for specially-abled people. Besides these projects, the Smart Cities of Uttar Pradesh have also developed infrastructure with elements of barrier-free and inclusive facilities.
