

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1890
ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2024
RAJYA SABHA

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN

1890 Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal:

WILL THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) whether Government has conducted an impact assessment of its various initiatives, including the Accessible India Campaign and Divya Kala Mela;
- (b) how does Government justify the continued gaps in accessibility across education, transport, and public spaces despite significant financial investments;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure that the empowerment schemes genuinely support the independence and economic stability of PwDs, rather than being symbolic or limited to urban areas; and
- (d) whether despite extensive policies and multiple schemes, Persons with Disabilities still face significant barriers in accessing education, employment and financial independence, especially in rural and underrepresented communities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

- (a) Yes Sir, the Government has conducted impact assessment of its various initiatives including the Accessible India Campaign.
- (b) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) is implementing a Scheme namely, "Creation of Barrier Free Environment with the following objective :-
 - (i) To provide barrier free environment for the persons with disabilities which include access to built environment in schools, colleges, academic and training institutions, offices and public buildings, recreational areas, health centres / hospitals etc.
 - (ii) Also to make Government websites at the Centre / State and District levels accessible to PwDs as per standard guidelines.

Further, there is a dedicated Inclusive Education (IE) component for the education of Children with Special Needs as an integral part of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. Through this component, Children with Special Needs are provided support via specific student oriented interventions such as identification and assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances and assistive devices, transportation, scribe and escort allowance support, Braille books and large print books, stipend for girls with special needs and teaching-learning materials etc, in order to appropriately address their unique educational requirements in general schools. Further, individualized support is also provided through therapeutic interventions at the block level. Samagra Shiksha supports CwSN as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The Samagra Shiksha is being implemented through State Governments/ UT Administrations and the Central Government is provided financial support to the States/UTs.

In line with the National Educational Policy 2020 and Goal-4 of SDG 2030 for providing inclusive and equitable education to all by 2030, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education notified the Accessibility Code for Educational Institutions in consultation with stakeholders and Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities on January 10th, 2024. The same has been notified in the Rules of RPwD Act 2016 on 20th June, 2024. The Code examines the physical barriers and information & communication barriers of access to school facilities for children with special needs. It provides child friendly standards with cost effective solutions for existing buildings, along with elements to make new buildings compliant with national accessibility standards.

- (c) & (d) Relief to the disabled is a State subject by virtue of entry 9 of the State List of the Constitution of India. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments through its major schemes namely Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) and Scholarship Schemes.
