GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2192
ANSWERED ON-19/03/2025

COMPREHENSIVE ACCESSIBILITY UNDER ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN

2192 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge

Will the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to address the significant shortfall in achieving the accessibility targets under the Accessible India Campaign, particularly in retrofitting public buildings, transport infrastructure and enhancing digital accessibility;

(b) the timeline and measures being taken to ensure comprehensive accessibility in public transport, railway stations and airports fully accessible; and

(c) whether it is a fact that only 95 Central Government websites have been made accessible so far and the timeline and targets set by Government to ensure full accessibility of all Central Government websites?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

(a) to (c) Sir, since, "Works, lands and buildings vested in or in the possession of the State" is a State subject, in order to facilitate the various State Governments, assistance in the form of Non-recurring grant-in-aid is provided to State Governments/UTs and to autonomous organizations/Institutions under the Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), for various activities relating to the Act, particularly for Creation of Barrier Free environment for Divyangjans. Besides that, the Central Government is closely co-coordinating with the concerned Ministries/State Governments/UTs through regular reviews for making the remaining buildings divyangjan friendly.

In addition to the above, the following steps have also been undertaken by the Government:

- To audit the accessibility of various sites, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has empanelled 59 accessibility auditors. Further, 10 web/digital accessibility auditors have been empanelled for the audit of websites/application.
- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur for the development of

courses on Inclusive Urban Planning and Accessible Built Environment for students of B. Plan and B. Tech (Civil Engineering) in AICTE model curriculum.

- In the landmark judgment in the RajiveRaturi v. Union of India case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court while highlighting the importance of ensuring accessibility for Divyangjan across all spheres of life, as mandated under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, directed the government to ensure compliance with accessibility standards in public infrastructure and services, including the formulation of mandatory rules under Section 40 of the Act. In compliance with these directives, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has been actively engaging with all relevant stakeholders, including concerned ministries and subject matter experts, to promote accessibility. The Department is currently revising Rule 15 of the RPwD Rules, 2017, to delineate clear guidelines for non-negotiable and negotiable accessibility standards.
- Sugamya Bharat, a mobile application developed to raise issues related to accessibility, has been revamped and made more user-friendly by involving Divyang community.

Section 45 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provisions that "All existing public buildings shall be made accessible in accordance with the rules formulated by the Central Government within a period not exceeding five years from the date of notification of such rules". Further, Section 46 of the Act also provisions that "The service providers whether Government or private shall provide services in accordance with the rules on accessibility formulated by the Central Government under section 40 within a period of two years from the date of notification of such rules".

In reference to the accessibility of Central Government websites, it is important to note that the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has made 95 websites accessible under the Content Management Framework. Additionally, the National Informatics Centre has developed the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites and Apps (GIGW), which include provisions for digital accessibility standards. Other Central Government websites are also being made accessible by the relevant organizations.

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