

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3164**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 20/08/2025

**Increasing accessibility for disabled persons**

3164 Shri Tiruchi Siva:

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

- (a) whether the Accessible India Campaign, launched in December, 2015, has officially been concluded, and if so, the date of its conclusion;
- (b) the number of Government buildings, transport systems and public websites made accessible under the campaign, against original targets;
- (c) reasons for shortfall in meeting the targets in each domain;
- (d) whether any independent audit or third-party evaluation was undertaken to assess the success of the campaign and if so, the main findings of such evaluations; and
- (e) details of grants-in-aid provided, State-wise and targets set under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities sub-scheme?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

**(a), (b), (c) & (e)** The Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan; AIC) was launched on 03<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015 as a nation-wide flagship campaign for enhancing accessibility

for Divyangjans in three verticals i.e. built environment, transport and Information & Communication eco-system.

Since 'Works, lands and buildings vested in or in the possession of the State' is a State subject, and as per Sections 41, 44 and 45 of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the appropriate government is responsible to take steps to ensure accessible built infrastructure, transport systems and accessible ICT for PwDs and is also responsible to conduct regular social audits to ensure that different schemes meet accessibility requirements, the details of State/UTs are not being maintained centrally. During the Accessible India Campaign, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has released ₹564.50 crore to the State Government/Union Territories for retrofitting of 1835 government buildings. As accessibility is an ongoing and continuous process, the Department is actively pursuing with the concerned stakeholders for achieving universal accessibility.

Ministry of Railways has submitted that extensive accessibility improvements have been implemented across Indian railway stations, including: standard ramps at 5,639 stations, tactile guidance surfaces for visually impaired passengers, accessible parking at 2,525 stations, accessible ticket counters at 313 stations, lifts at 683 stations, wheelchairs at 5,854 stations and accessible toilets at 4,829 stations. Navigation aids comprise Coach Guidance Systems at 947 stations, Train Indication Boards at 1,143 stations and Public Address Systems at 6,133 stations to assist visually impaired passengers, creating a more inclusive travel environment for Divyangjans.

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has submitted that collaboration with 61 State Transport Undertakings across 24 States and UTs has resulted in significant accessibility improvements. Of 1,45,490 total buses, 51,041 buses (35% of fleet) now meet basic accessibility standards, comprising 25,216 intercity coaches (26%) and 25,825 intracity buses (53%). Additionally, 2,521 out of 3,363 bus stations (75%) across all STU networks have been made accessible through universal-design retrofitting of both fleets and terminals.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has submitted that 68 Central Govt websites were made accessible and certified by Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC). A total of 145 websites (123 Central, 4 State) now have valid STQC certifications for accessibility as per GIGW guidelines. 3000+ government websites have been onboarded on the s3waas platform till date. Also, 676 State/UT government websites have been made accessible under AIC.

It is noteworthy that post March 31, 2024 AIC has been subsumed under the "Scheme for Creation of Barrier Free Environment (CBFE)" sub-scheme under SIPDA to ensure long-term continuity of ongoing accessibility efforts wherein grants are released only on demand basis for creation of barrier free environment in existing government buildings and websites. Owing to the

demand driven nature of the scheme and the requirement of receipt of compliant proposals from the State/UT Government, the CBFE Scheme is not amenable to targets. However, the details of GIA provided State-wise under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities (CBFE) sub-scheme is available at **Annexure**.

**(d)** The National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development conducted the review of the implementation of Accessible India Campaign as a third-party evaluation. Some key findings of this evaluation were:

- During the study, it was seen that 80.51% of the buildings were funded for retrofitting.
- The campaign covered major government buildings across the country.
- A positive attitudinal change was observed amongst government functionaries and general public towards the right of persons with disabilities to safe and easy access to public places due to this campaign.

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## Annexure

**Grant-in-aid released to the State Govts./UTs under the Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA) during the last Six (06) and current year for Creation of Barrier Free Environment**

**(Rs. in lakh)**

[illegible]

27	Uttarakhand	0	0	280.28	44	0	0	28.65	1	0	0	15.60	1	15.60	1
28	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	417.94	17	35.64	3	0	0	0	0	389.50	2	389.50	2
29	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	76.53	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	521.74	16
32	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	46	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1274.51</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2274.08</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>748.89</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1529.20</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1828.12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2809.61*</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1926.81</b>	<b>22</b>

*\*About Rs. 1254.75 lakh returned to CFI from TSA account on 31.03.2025*