

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 645  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2017**

**Financial Assistance to the Family or Differently Abled Persons**

**645: Shri Baijayant Jay Panda:**

**Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be please to State:**

- (a) the details of the schemes implemented by the Government to provide economic and social assistance to the family of a disabled person;
- (b) the provisions laid down by the Government for the ease of access for disabled persons in public institutions;
- (c) whether there is any framework for implementation of the same;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has decided to make similar provisions for private institutions; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)**

(a) : There is no scheme run by this Department to provide economic and social assistance to the families of persons with disabilities. However, flagship schemes/programmes, namely Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliance (ADIP), Accessible India Campaign (AIC) and Scholarship Schemes as well as programmes run by institutions/organizations of the Department provide economic and social empowerment to persons with disabilities which reduce the overall burden on the part of their families.

(b) to (f) : Public building as defined under section 2(w) of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016) includes a Government or private building, used or accessed by the public at large including a building used for educational or vocational purposes, workplace, commercial activities, public utilities, religious, cultural, leisure or recreational activities, medical or health services, law enforcement agencies, reformatories or judicial foras, railway stations or platforms, roadways bus stands or terminus, airports or waterways.

As per Section 40 of the RPwD Act, 2016, the Central Government under Rule 15 of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 has already specified standard for public buildings as specified in the Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons With Disabilities and Elderly Persons issued by Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India in March, 2016.

As per Section 44 of RPwD Act, 2016, all new public buildings are required to adhere to the accessibility norms specified under the Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons With Disabilities and Elderly Persons. Further, Section 45 (1) of the RPwD Act, 2016 mandates that all existing public buildings should be made accessible as per these standards within a period of 5 years.