

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1621
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2018**

UPLIFTMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

1621. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:

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

- (a) the total number of disabled persons in the country;
- (b) the facilities provided for such persons including schools, colleges, banks, multiplex, transport, tour, lift, parking, toilets etc.;
- (c) the details of the shortcomings found therein;
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to rectify these shortcomings; and
- (e) the budget allocated by the Government for disabled persons during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) : As per Census 2011, number of persons with disabilities in the country are 2.68 crores.

(b) to (d) : The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 emphasizes provision of facilities in various public places including private buildings used and accessed by public at large. As mandated by Section 40 of the said Act, Central Government has notified rules laying down the standards of accessibility for the physical environment, transportation, and information and communications. The appropriate governments are required to take suitable measures to ensure accessibility in these areas by providing accessibility features such as ramps, tactile floorings, accessible lifts, accessible toilets etc. The said Act also stipulates a period of 5 years for all the existing public buildings to make them fully accessible.

While relief to disabled is a State subject, the Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments for ensuring accessibility. The scheme for Implementation of Persons with disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA) provide assistance for various activities relating to implementation of RPwD Act which includes construction of barrier free infrastructure and accessibility audit of Government buildings and public places. To rectify shortcomings of accessibility features and for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, Accessible India Campaign (AIC) has been launched in 2015 as a nation-wide flagship campaign to create an enabling and barrier-free environment with a focus on three key features, namely, (a) Accessibility of Built up Environment (b) Transport System Accessibility, and (c) Accessibility of information & Communication Ecosystem.

(e) : The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Central Government focuses solely on empowerment and inclusion of persons with disabilities. Its budget for the last three years has been Rs 1610 crores.
