

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
LOK SABHA**

**Unstarred Question No. 2883  
To be answered on 13.03.2018**

**National Centre for Universal Design Principles**

2883: SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Centre for Development of Universal Design Principles to promote a barrier free environment has been established as prescribed by the First Country Report 2015;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay;
- (c) whether the Government has taken requisite measures to make all Government websites accessible to disabled persons under the National Policy on Universal Electronic Accessibility;
- (d) whether disabled-friendly websites are still accessible as other content when new content is added; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI KRISHAN PAL GURJAR)**

(a) & (b): The Ministry proposes to establish National Institute for Inclusive and Universal Design (NIUD) on the Inclusive Agenda of Universal Design which will focus on environmental access to everyone. The Institute will address the issue of Universal Design and Barrier-Free Environment so as to facilitate mobility and make life of Persons with Disabilities easier and at par with their non-disabled counterparts. The Institute will take up research, training, policy, development, service and advocacy issues to ensure accessible environment for all products, buildings, transportation, education etc. The proposed Institute is first of its kind to be set up in the country.

The process of setting up the Centre involves consultations with various Ministries/Departments/Organizations and discussions with different stakeholders.

(c): (i) Under Section 42 (i) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the appropriate Government shall take measures to ensure that all contents available in audio, print and electronic media are in accessible format. Already rules under RPwD Act, 2016 have been notified on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. The website standard as specified in the guidelines for Indian Government websites has been adopted under Section 15(c) (i) of Rules notified under RPwD Act, 2016. Under Section 15 (c) (ii), documents to be placed on websites shall be in Electronic Publication (ePUB) or Optical Character Reader (OCR) based pdf format.

Further, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has constituted a Committee of Experts and Stakeholders to formulate accessibility standards for Persons with Disabilities keeping in view the provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016.

(d): If new contents are added as per 15(c)

(ii) above, then websites will be accessible.

(e): Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

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