

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5884
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2018

Access to Public Places for Differently Abled

5884. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines or advisory to the States during the last four years to ensure that no disabled person is mocked at public places, including temples;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any provision in the law to help the disabled persons' access to temples or regarding dress code to enter temples like Ujjain Shrine and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of incidents of disabled persons taken for a ride during the said period?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) & (b) No such guidelines have been issued by this Ministry. However, the Central Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for empowerment of persons with disabilities. Section 92 of the Act recognizes intentional insult or intimidation with intent to humiliate a person with disability in any place within public view, as an offence and provides for imprisonment ranging from six months to five years along with fine.

(c) The above mentioned Act mandates that all the existing public buildings which include Government as well as private buildings used or accessed by the public at large including buildings used for religious purposes are required to be made accessible in accordance with the standard of accessibility notified on 15.06.2017 by the Government under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017, within a period of five years. However, the said Act does not have any provision regulating dress code for persons with disabilities to access religious places such as temple, Ujjain shrine etc.

(d) As per the provisions of the above mentioned Act, the respective State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities are mandated to look into the issues regarding deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities. Information relating to incidents/complaints regarding harassment to persons with disabilities is not centrally maintained by this Ministry.
