

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.448
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2019**

Accessible India campaign

448. Dr. Shashi Tharoor:

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

- (a) whether 200 sign language interpreters have been trained under the Accessible India Campaign;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government will consider using sign language interpreters for all official speeches and announcements by Ministers and officials of the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor/

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

(a) and (b) : Yes Madam. More than 200 sign language interpreters have been trained under the Accessible India Campaign.

(c), (d) and (e) : The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mandates ensuring accessibility and participation of persons with Disabilities including access to information and communication technology. Sign Language interpreters are engaged during official meetings wherever required. As regards speeches and official announcements made on Television for the benefits of persons with hearing disabilities, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India has set up an expert committee to prepare guidelines in the matter.
