

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3291**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2023

**PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY**

3291. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

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

- (a) whether disability is more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the number of disabled and their problems in the country;
- (c) if so, the details and findings thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is taking any steps to develop adequate infrastructures for the betterment of disabled persons in the rural areas, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

- (a) to (c) As per Census, 2011, the total population of the country is 121.09 crore out of which 68.8% of total populations reside in rural areas as compared to 31.2 % reside in urban areas.

Further, as per Census, 2011 there are 2.68 crores persons with disabilities (PwDs) in the country out of which 69% reside in rural areas as compared to 31% in Urban areas.

The Department receives various inputs from the general public and other stakeholders regarding the problems faced by PwDs such as reservation in government employment, issues related to health etc. The Department takes appropriate action on such matter in consultation with the concerned authorities.

- (d) The Government enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, which came into force on 19.04.2017. Section 25 of the said Act mandates the appropriate Government and local authorities to take measures for persons with disabilities to provide free healthcare in the vicinity specially in rural areas to lower income group. Further, Section 40 of the RPwD Act, 2016, mandates the Central Government to formulate Rules for persons with disabilities (PwDs) laying down the standards of accessibilities for physical environment, transportation, ICT etc. Accordingly, on 15.06.2017, the Government notified, the standards relating to physical environment, transport and information and communication technology as part of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Rules, 2017. Moreover, Section 44 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, mandates that no establishment can be granted permission to build any structure if the building plan does not adhere to the Rules formulated by the Central Government.

In addition, the Government Implements Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA) which, inter-alia, provides for financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations and Government run organizations for creation of barrier free environment in existing Government buildings through construction of lifts, ramps, railing, accessible toilet, tactile tiles, accessible website etc. for the convenience of persons with disabilities (PwDs).

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