

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4576
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2023

Accessible India Campaign

4576. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

- (a) whether targets set under the Accessible India Campaign have been revised again;
- (b) if so, the details of the original targets and revised targets along with the reasons for revision;
- (c) the status of the railway stations and the Government buildings proposed to be made accessible, State-wise;
- (d) the steps taken to expedite the works undertaken under the scheme; and
- (e) the time by which the targets likely to be done in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a) to (e) The Government is working with all the States/UTs to promote accessibility and exclusivity of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The government has launched a nation-wide flagship campaign, Accessible India Campaign, for achieving universal accessibility which focuses on enhancing the accessibility of Built-up Environment, Transportation System and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem to make the life of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) more convenient. Under Accessible India Campaign, the Ministry provides grant in aid to State/UT governments for selected identified government buildings for retrofitting. To promote accessibility and generate awareness, the Ministry conducts online/offline meetings/workshops, issues letters/reminders from time to time.

Further, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has been implementing a central sector umbrella Scheme, viz., Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA). Under the 'Creation of Barrier Free Environment', a component of the SIPDA Scheme, financial assistance is provided to State/UT Governments including autonomous organizations/ National Institutions/ Universities run by central/state Governments for making existing Government buildings accessible.

As per the Rights for Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, Sections 45-46, public buildings shall be made accessible in accordance with the 'Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons with Disability and Elderly Persons, 2016' as notified under RPwD Rules.

The RPwD Rule 15(1) framed under the provisions of Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mentions that every establishment shall comply with the following standards relating to physical environment, transport and information and communication technology namely Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly persons as issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Urban Development in March 2016.

Rule 15(2) framed under the provisions of Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mentions that the respective ministries and Departments shall ensure compliance of the standards of accessibility specified under the Rule through the concerned domain regulators or otherwise.

The targets set under the Accessible India Campaign are annexed at **Annexure A**.

Indian Railways is committed to make its railway stations and trains accessible for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjans) as part of "Sugamya Bharat Mission" or Accessible India Campaign of Government of India. Provisions of facilities for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjans) are to be made at all stations over Indian Railway based on the needs of travelling public and availability of funds as per the guidelines for accessibility of Indian Railway stations issued in November, 2022.

Indian Railways endeavor to provide comprehensive facilities and services to Divyangjan, which inter-alia include an easy use of information system, accessible infrastructure, various concession to passengers travelling on Divyangjan concession Tickets, Human Assistance, Wheel Chairs, Signages etc. at railway stations on Indian Railways.

Annexure-A

SI No	Target
1	<p>Target of enhancing the proportion of Accessible Government Buildings:</p> <p>Target 1.1 : Completing accessibility audit of at least 25-50 most important government buildings in 50 cities and making them fully accessible;</p> <p>Target 1.2 : Making 50% of all the government buildings of the National Capital and all the State Capitals fully accessible;</p> <p>Target 1.3: Completing accessibility audit of 50% of government buildings and making them fully accessible in 10 most important cities/towns of states not covered in targets 1.1 and 1.2;</p>
2	<p>Target of enhancing the proportion of Accessible Airports</p> <p>Target 2.1 and 2.2 - Airports: All international airports and domestic airports to be made fully accessible;</p>
3	<p>Target of enhancing the proportion of Accessible Railway Stations</p> <p>Target 3.1 and 3.2 - Railways: A1, A & B categories of railway stations to be made fully accessible; 50% of all railway stations to be made fully accessible;</p>
4	<p>Target of enhancing the proportion of Accessible Public Transport</p> <p>Target 4.1 - Buses: 10% of Government owned public transport carriers are to be made fully accessible;</p>
5	<p>Target of Enhancing proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites</p> <p>Target 5.1 and 5.2 - Websites: At least 50% of Central and State Government websites are to meet accessibility standards; 50% of all public documents issued by the Central and State Governments meet accessibility standards;</p>
6	<p>Target 6.1 – Sign Language Interpreters Training and Developing 200 additional sign language interpreters:</p>
7	<p>Target 7.1 and 7.2 - T.V Viewing:</p> <p>(a) Public television news – National standards on captioning and sign language interpretation are to be created and adopted;</p> <p>(b) At least 25% of public television programmes on government channels are to comply with the set standards</p>
