

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 305
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2023

DISABLE FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE

305. SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

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

- (a) whether all the Government buildings have no facility of wheelchair ramps and disabled friendly;
- (b) if so, the total percentage of the Government buildings that have wheelchair ramps installed, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the total percentage of the Government buildings that have functional disabled friendly washroom, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to have disabled friendly infrastructure in Government buildings upto District level?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) : The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has informed that the retrofitting of all the 211 Central Government buildings across the country owned by that ministry for accessibility as targeted under Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign) has been completed by Central Public Works Department (CPWD). Further, retrofitting works of 889 Central Government buildings belonging to other Ministries/Departments maintained by the CPWD has also been completed.

‘Works, lands and buildings vested in or in the possession of the State’ is a State subject. The details of buildings of States/Union Territories made accessible are not being maintained centrally. For guidance of the States and Union Territories, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has formulated ‘Harmonized Guidelines & Standards for Universal Accessibility in India, 2021’ containing accessibility guidelines.

In respect of State/UT Government owned buildings funded under target 1.1 of Accessible India Campaign, 21 State/UT Governments have reported completion of retrofitting work in 623 buildings.

In the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, provisions have been made to ensure accessibility in public infrastructure. In addition, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) has been implementing a sub-scheme namely Creation of Barrier Free Environment under the Central Sector Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to provide financial assistance to State/UT Governments to provide barrier free environment for the persons with disabilities which include access to built environment in schools, colleges, academic and training institutions, offices and public buildings, recreational areas, health centres/hospitals etc. This would include provision for ramps, rails, lifts, adaptation of toilets for wheelchair users, brail signages and auditory signals, tactile flooring, causing curb cuts and slopes to be made in pavement for the easy access of wheelchair users, engraving on the surface of zebra crossing for the blind or for persons with low vision, engraving on the edges of railway platforms for the blind or for low vision and devising appropriate symbols of disability, etc.
