

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2587
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2022

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PwDs

2587. SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C.UDASI:
MS. DIYA KUMARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is working with the States to promote accessibility and exclusivity of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has/proposes to make all the Government and private buildings, transport, and Universities disabled friendly and if so, the details thereof particularly for the States of Karnataka and Rajasthan; and
- (c) whether the State of Karnataka and Rajasthan have complied with and/or met the objectives set out under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to make the existing infrastructure accessible and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a):Yes, Sir. 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.

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.

To promote accessibility and generate awareness, the Ministry conducts online/offline meetings/workshops, issues letters/reminders from time to time.

(b): Section 40-46 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides provision for accessibility and casts obligations on concerned Central/State/UT Governments for providing accessibility.

Under Accessible India Campaign, States of Karnataka and Rajasthan have been provided financial assistance for making 47 and 88 buildings accessible respectively. Rajasthan has reported completion of retrofitting in 78 buildings.

(c): States of Karnataka and Rajasthan have not yet reported to have fully met the objectives set out under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 to make the existing infrastructure accessible so far and they have to strive continuously to obtain better accessibility to PwDs in the spirit of the RPwD Act, 2016.
