

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *167
TO BE ANSWERED ON:- 11.03.2025

DIVYANGJAN FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE

*167 Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat:

Will the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment be pleased to state:

- (a) whether divyangjan friendly toilets are available in all the Government buildings of the States in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government proposes to build divyangjan friendly Government buildings at district level and if so, the steps taken in this regard.

ANSWER

Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment
(Dr. Virendra Kumar)

- (a) to (b): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 167 raised by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding "Divyangjan Friendly Infrastructure" for answer on 11.03.2025.

- (a) to (b) Sir, as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, both the Centre and States are mandated to take necessary steps for making all the Government buildings, both existing and new, accessible, including the facilities of permanent ramps, divyangjan friendly toilets, Braille signages, tactile flooring, lifts etc.

Since, "Works, lands and buildings vested in or in the possession of the State" is a State subject, in order to facilitate the various State Governments, assistance in the form of Non-recurring grant-in-aid is provided to State Governments/UTs and to autonomous organizations/Institutions under the Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), for various activities relating to the Act, particularly for Creation of Barrier Free environment for Divyangjans.

Furthermore, the Central Government launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide initiative for achieving universal accessibility for Divyangjans on December 3, 2015. The Campaign has three important verticals, namely - Build Environment, Transportation sector and Information and Communication Technologies ecosystem. Since 2014, the Govt. has released the grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 686.6 Crores to the implementing agencies for making existing State/UT Government buildings accessible under the SIPDA scheme.

Besides that, the Central Government is closely co-ordinating with the concerned Ministries/State Governments/UTs through regular reviews for making the remaining buildings divyangjan friendly.

This has resulted in a positive impact in terms of divyangjan friendly infrastructure in various avenues. For instance, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is proactively implementing the "Accessibility Standards and Guidelines for Civil Aviation" to ensure barrier-free built environments and services, including the provisions of Wheelchair Services, Ramps, Accessible Restrooms, Tactile Paving and Flooring, lifts, designated parking etc for divyangjans throughout its 153 domestic and international airports.

With respect to availability of divyangjan friendly toilets in schools, as per UDISE+ report 2023-24, 97.17% of girls and co-ed schools have dedicated girls' toilet facilities, most of which are divyangjan friendly.

As mandated by the Election Commission of India, necessary steps have been taken to ensure the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) including availability of permanent ramps and accessible (divyangjan friendly) toilets in all the 10,52,664 polling stations during the Lok Sabha elections 2024.

Indian Railways has more than 8700 stations and the Railways in compliance with RPwD Act, 2016 is making necessary efforts continuously to provide accessible facilities to divyangjans in railways stations, such as entrance ramps, accessible parking, low height ticket counter/help booths, toilets, sub-ways/foot over bridges with ramps/lifts etc.

In addition to the above, the following steps have also been undertaken by the Government:

- To audit the accessibility of various sites, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has empanelled 59 accessibility auditors.

- Sugamya Bharat, a mobile application developed to raise issues related to accessibility, has been revamped and made more user-friendly by involving Divyang community.

Thus, the Ministry is making all efforts through close co-ordination and co-operation with the concerned Ministries/Departments as well as State/UTs governments to make all government buildings divyangjan friendly not only at district level but throughout the country.
