

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3950
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2025

DIVYANGJANS FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE

3950 Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy:

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

- (a) the key challenges in ensuring full compliance with accessibility standards in public and private infrastructure, despite such provisions under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016;
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to address gaps in accessibility in public transportation, particularly in metro stations, buses, and railway networks across tier-2 and tier-3 cities;
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that accessibility audits of public buildings, including hospitals, educational institutions, and Governments Offices, lead to actual infrastructural improvements rather than just compliance reports;
- (d) the extent to which urban planning policies can be better aligned with accessibility guidelines to ensure that new developments, including smart cities, are truly inclusive for persons with disabilities; and
- (e) the mechanisms in place to increase accountability and ensure that funds allocated for disabled-friendly infrastructure under schemes like SIPDA (Scheme for implementing of Persons with Disabilities Act) and Accessible India Campaign are utilized effectively?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B. L. Verma)

(a) to (e): Since, “Works, lands and buildings vested in or in the possession of the State” is a State subject, the Central Government plays a crucial supportive role in assisting States to ensure compliance with accessibility standards. 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. Further, the Central Government is closely coordinating with the concerned Ministries/State Governments/UTs through regular reviews for making the buildings divyangjan friendly.

The Central Government has notified the Accessibility Standards and Guidelines for Civil Aviation, Accessibility Standards for Bus Body Code and Guidelines on accessibility of Indian Railway stations and facilities at stations for differently abled persons (Divyangjan) and passengers with reduced mobility in the RPwD Rules framed under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Further, The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur for the development of courses on Inclusive Urban Planning and Accessible Built Environment for students of B. Plan and B. Tech (Civil Engineering) in AICTE model curriculum. Training course on accessibility has been prepared in collaboration with Council of Architecture.

To increase accountability and ensure that funds allocated for divyangjan-friendly infrastructure under schemes like SIPDA (Scheme for implementing of Persons with Disabilities Act) and Accessible India Campaign are utilized effectively, the Department regularly follow ups with the implementing agencies to submit the progress report and utilization certificates.
