

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 386**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 22/07/2025

**Reservation of Differently-abled People in Local Bodies**

386. Smt. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi:

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

- (a) the details of that have provided political reservation for differently-abled persons in local bodies such as Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies, States or Union Territories along with the year of implementation;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to bring a National policy or amend relevant laws to provide for political reservation for differently-abled persons in local bodies across the country, in light of their continued under representation in governance, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any recommendations have been received from the Election Commission, National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, or any expert committee in this regard, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure greater political participation and representation of differently-abled persons at all levels of democratic governance?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

(a) - (c): Elections to local bodies such as Panchayats and Municipalities (Urban Local Bodies) is a State Subject by virtue of entry 5 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Unlike reservations for women, Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs), there is no provision for political reservation for persons with disabilities in local bodies such as Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies under the Constitution of India. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 provides the right of equality and non-discrimination to PwDs and as such there is no bar on persons with disabilities (PWDs) contesting elections for panchayats and municipalities.

(d) The RPwD Act, 2016 ensures participation of persons with disabilities in Central and State Advisory Boards on Disability and Expert Committees for identification of posts for the purpose of reservation to ensure their representation in democratic governance.

In addition to that, section 11 of the RPwD Act, 2016 mandates the Election Commission of India and the State Election Commissions to ensure that all polling stations are accessible to persons with disabilities and all materials related to the electoral process are easily understandable by and accessible to them. The Election Commission of India has taken several measures to make voter registration and polling accessible such as PwD mapping, accessible voter education through the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program that includes campaign in accessible formats, provision of home voting for persons with benchmark disabilities etc. ECI has also launched the Saksham App that allows PwDs to request assistance, such as wheelchair access or transportation to polling stations.

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