

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1733
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 10/02/2026

REHABILITATION SCHEME FOR SANITATION WORKERS

1733. SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:

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

(a) whether relatively limited progress has been made in Maharashtra in making railway stations, Government offices and schools accessible to the persons with disabilities, resulting in their facing several challenges;

(b) if so, whether the Government considers it necessary to formulate a comprehensive and effective plan or policy in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is working on any scheme for permanent housing employment and rehabilitation for the sanitation workers' community in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(d) whether any Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe hostels functioning in Maharashtra are in a dilapidated condition and are facing serious problems such as lack of basic amenities and health services, thereby endangering the lives of students; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bring about improvements in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B L VERMA)

(a) & (b) Since 'Works, lands and buildings vested in or in the possession of the State' is a State subject, and as per Sections 41, 44 and 45 of The Rights Of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the appropriate government is responsible to take steps to ensure accessible built infrastructure,

transport systems and accessible ICT for PwDs and is also responsible to conduct regular social audits/assessments and such data regarding the same is not maintained centrally. State Govt. of Maharashtra has informed that a total of 137 buildings have already been restructured and made accessible for Divyangjans.

To facilitate the central government departments/ministries, States/UTs, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) implements an Umbrella Scheme- Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SIPDA) Act, 2016 having a sub-component called- “Scheme for Creation of Barrier Free Environment” (CBFE Scheme) through which financial assistance is provided to State/UT Governments on demand-basis for creation of barrier free environment on receipt of compliant proposals.

As per UDISE+ 2024-25, out of 14.71 lakh schools across the country:

- i. 11.64 lakh schools have ramps;
- ii. 8.08 lakh schools have ramps with handrails; and
- iii. 5.23 lakh schools have CwSN-friendly toilets

In Maharashtra:

- i. 1,01,723 schools have ramps;
- ii. 88,287 schools have ramps with handrails; and
- iii. 67,668 schools have CwSN-friendly toilets.

Also, the Department has notified the Accessibility Code for Educational Institutions on January 10th, 2024 and the same has been notified under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities(RPwD) Rules, 2017 which includes accessibility standards, identification of barriers to access and guidelines for conducting accessibility audit of existing buildings and vetting of plans of upcoming/new constructions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e) It has been informed by the State Government of Maharashtra that as a practice, all hostels are monitored for minor and major defects periodically. In case any serious irreparable deficiency is observed, immediate structural audit is conducted. In case of unsatisfactory audit results, all hostellers are shifted immediately to alternate locations having all healthy and safe conditions for residence. Meanwhile, the repairs are conducted through State PWD Department on priority
