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Title : Need to include Ostomates under the physically-disabled category and provide them all the facilities as is being provided to disabled people by the Ministry of Railways.

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for permitting me to raise a matter concerning ostomates. The Ostomy Association of India has been functioning in India since 1975. In order to save the patients from this malignant disease, a person's normal passage for waste management is removed and permanently replaced by artificial appliances. The artificial system consists of a pouch like structure on their stomach. Due to this surgery, ostomates do not have control over their waste discharge and they are forced to live with limitations of daily routine resulting in tremendous trouble for their livelihood.

The appliances used for artificial waste management are very expensive and is an additional lifetime burden on the patients. Patients are under constant fear that a waste carrying bag may get leaked or may get burst. As the patient cannot be recognised by others, the chances of appliances getting damaged increases during rail journey. The Ministry of Railways was kind enough to provide concession for Ostomates in railway journeys.

I would like to earnestly request the hon. Minister, through you, to include Ostomates under the physically-disabled category and provide them all the facilities as is being provided to disabled people as this would help minimise physical, economical and mental problems.

Thank you.