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Title: Request government to take adequate steps to make all the infrastructure disabled-friendly.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, today is World Disability Day. So, I would like to underline some important issues regarding the specially abled persons. The Government had launched the Accessible India Campaign in 2015 which received an overwhelming response. To supplement the existing steps for benefits of differently abled persons, the Parliament passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act in December, 2016. More than three years have passed since the inception of this Campaign, but the purpose of the Campaign and the Act is defeated due to laxity and delay in full implementation of the Campaign. The result is huge economic implications as per UN agencies which have pegged this cost at around seven per cent of the national GDP. The Accessible India Campaign has not lived up to its objective and deadlines have been pushed. It is not only the railway stations but the trains are also inaccessible to the disabled. There is a need to include disabled-friendly facilities in the guidelines of the Adarsh Station Scheme and also to manufacture new coaches of Indian Railways.

The Delhi High Court in 2017 has remarked that Indian Railways had failed to implement fully disabled-friendly infrastructure across the country in case of Vaibhav Shukla who missed his entrance examination due to lack of disabled-friendly infrastructure. The Delhi High Court has remarked that Railways should treat differently abled persons as 'most treasured' passengers. A unique initiative has been undertaken

under the Accessible India Campaign by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited. In furtherance of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, it has launched a new facility called wheelchair lift at Hyderabad Airport. The wheelchair lift is meant to create an infrastructure that is friendly to the persons with disabilities and reduced mobility. The introduction of wheelchair lift is a welcome step. This should be implemented on pan-India basis.

There is a need to have 'accessibility for disabled' as a mandatory guideline for giving no objection certificate by local authority for buildings. There is a need to have compulsory teaching of universal design for disabled access in the architecture courses in India.

19.29 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

Also, the GST on disability devices is fixed to five per cent. This should also be abolished.

I think the Government will take adequate steps to make all the infrastructure disabled-friendly. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: श्री श्रीरंग आप्पा बारणे तथा श्री राहुल रमेश शेवाले को डॉ. श्रीकांत एकनाथ शिंदे द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।