GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3559
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 22.03.2023

WEBSITES AND APPLICATIONS ACCESSIBLE TO
DIFFERENTLY ABLED PEOPLE

3559. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that all its websites and applications are accessible to differently-abled people;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of funds released and utilized in this regard during the last five years;
(c) whether the Government has conducted an audit or assessment of its websites to ensure that they are accessible and easy to use for differently-abled people, if so, the details thereof;
(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage and support private corporations and website developers to make their digital offerings accessible to differently-abled people; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote research and development for the purpose of creating innovative digital accessibility solutions for differently-abled people?

ANSWER

MINISTRY OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): A number of steps have been taken to make websites and applications accessible to differently abled persons. These include the following:

(i) 95 websites of Central Government Ministries and Departments have been made accessible by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under its Content Management Framework project.
(ii) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has informed that it has made 676 websites of various States and Union territories accessible under its Accessible India Campaign, in coordination with ERNET, an autonomous scientific society under MeitY.
(iii) MeitY along with BIS has published the Indian Accessibility Standard for ICT IS 17802 that comprises of two parts namely:

  a.   Part 1 – Requirements; notified on 24th December 2021
  b.   Part 2 – Determination of Conformance; notified on 4th May 2022

(b): During the last five years MeitY has initiated a project named Content Management framework for making the Central Government websites accessible, wherein a fund of Rs.15.82 crore has been released and utilized.

(c): The Standardization Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC) audits and certifies compliance of websites of Indian Government Websites, which include guidelines for making websites accessible and easy to use for differently abled persons.

(d): The National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated has empanelled agencies for testing and development of accessible websites. In addition the, Ministry of Electronics and IT has also sent letters to private organizations and industry associations such as NASSCOM, Broadband India Forum, India Cellular & Electronics Association, Manufacturers Association for Information Technology and Cellular Operators Association of India, to encourage and support private corporations and website developers to make their websites and applications accessible to differently abled people.

(e): An Integrated browser-based tool with Text-to-Speech and Text-to-Braille System that provides a verbal description of all events of a web page, including links, buttons, check box, text etc, which are keyboard-event-driven, and provides 'keyboard only' accessibility using a minimal set of keys, has been developed under a research and development initiative focused for persons with visual impairment.

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