

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:326

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002

MOBILITY OF DISABLED PERSONS

GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether inaccessibility to buildings and present transportation system have deprived the disabled from getting better education and job opportunities;
- (b) if so, whether the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled has demanded that the Government may bring forward a Bill making accessibility for the disabled mandatory in the new buildings and transportation system:
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) No such demand of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled has been received in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 enforced w.e.f. February, 1996, inter-alia, provides that appropriate governments within the limits of their economic capacity and development shall provide barrier free facilities for persons with disabilities in transport, built environment and on the road. The barrier free facilities include providing of ramps in buildings, adaptation of toilets for wheelchair users, Braille symbols and auditory signals in elevators etc. the Ministry of Urban Development had prepared model building bye-laws, detailing features for barrier-free built environment and related guidelines and space standards and circulated the same to the State Governments and Union Territories, for adoption. All Central Ministries/Departments and States have been requested to ensure provision of barrier-free facilities in all new Government buildings and public utilities and also undertake feasible modifications in existing buildings. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has also issued a notification in the Gazette of India on 17-2-2001 for ensuring barrier-free environment by all the appropriate authorities. The O/O Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has started Access Audit of public buildings and organized workshops for generating awareness for providing barrier-free environment. The implementation of the provisions of the Act regarding barrier free access requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all Ministries of the Central Government, States/Union Territories, local bodies, etc.