

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:361  
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004  
ACCESSIBILITY FOR DISABLED PERSONS  
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

**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 urged the Government to bring forward a bill making accessibility for the disabled persons 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**

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MEIRA KUMAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 361 for answer on 19.8.2004 put forth by Shri Vinod Kumar, regarding `Accessibility for Disabled Persons`.

(a) It is commonly acknowledge that lack of barrier free built environment has been one of the impediments for access to education and job opportunities. However, there is no study to quantify extent and pattern of such deprivation amongst different types of disabilities and persons with disabilities.

(b) to (d) There has been some demands for bringing a bill to ensure barrier free design and access features for disabled people in all future constructions. In view of general perception regarding the need for barrier free environment, this Ministry has taken the following remedial steps:-

- a. A legal provision has been made under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 wherein non-discrimination in transport, non-discrimination on road and non-discrimination in built environment have been provided for.
- b. The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has conducted access audit of public buildings to make them barrier free and hence accessible to persons with disabilities.
- c. Ministry of Urban Development has prepared Model Building Bye Laws containing provisions for barrier free built environment. These guidelines and space standards have been circulated to the State Governments and Union Territories for adoption.
- d. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) envisages barrier free environments in all the schools to provide equal access to the children with disabilities.
- e. The Government is providing financial assistance for removal of architectural barriers in existing/ new schools under the scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children. (IEDC)
- f. Instructions have been issued to the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (ASRTU) requesting them to issue instructions to all State Transport Undertakings to incorporate and enforce handicapped friendly features in their vehicles, both at the production as well at operation stages.