

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:273

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND BARRIER-FREE ENVIRONMENT

Khairé Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

- (a) whether under the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities to which India is a signatory, it is obligatory to set up a National Centre for Universal Design and Barrier-Free Environment (NCUDBE);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up NCUDBE in the country;
- (d) if so, the details and the salient features of the proposed NCUDBE;
- (e) whether a Task Force has been constituted to examine the need for setting up of NCUDBE; and
- (f) if so, the terms, reference and composition of the Task Force?

Answer

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 273 FOR 29.11.2010

BY SHRI KISHNBHAI V. PATEL, SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE, MPs REGARDING "NATIONAL CENTRE FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND BARRIER-FREE ENVIRONMENT"

(a) & (b) No Sir. However, Articles 4(1)(f) & 9 of the Convention cast obligations for the States Parties to, inter-alia :-

(i) "undertake or promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities", and

(ii) "take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public."

(c), (d), (e) & (f) The Xlth Five Year Plan Document envisages, inter-alia, establishment of "a National Centre to facilitate and support the development of universal design and barrier-free built environment". As a follow-up to this, the Ministry has set up a Task Force in September, 2010, to work out the details of the proposed NCUDBE.

Terms of reference of the Task Force are as follows:-

- i. To assess the ongoing efforts in the area of universal design and barrier-free environment, and in that light, to examine the need for establishment of an NCUDBE,
- ii. In the light of (i) above, to prepare a Project Report for the establishment of an NCUDBE, which would, inter alia, give the following:-
 - (a) Role and Functions-including (A) the extent to which it should do R&D in house, and support this by other agencies, and (B) whether it should also do R&D in the field of assistive technology.
 - (b) Structure (including whether it should be set up as an independent entity or under the umbrella of a suitable existing institution like the National Institute of Design or CSIR).
 - (c) Manpower requirements.
 - (d) Financial implications.
 - (e) Implementation modalities and phasing.
 - (f) Other incidental matters.

Composition of the Task Force is as follows:

i. Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari, DG, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi Chairperson

ii. Joint Secretary (DD), Min. of Social Justice & Empowerment Ex-Officio Convenor

iii. Director, Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CEERI), Pilani. Member

iv. Nominee of the Director of the following institutions, not below the rank of a Professor:-

a. National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. Member

b. School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi. Member

v. Nominees of the following Central Government Departments, not below the rank of a Joint Secretary:-

a. Department of Telecommunication. Member

b. Department of Information Technology Member

vi. Shri Sanjeev Sachdeva, Deputy Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, G-086-J Block, Ground Floor, Parliament Library Building, New Delhi. Member

vii. Shri Sam Taraporewala, St. Xavier College, 5, Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai-400001 Member

viii. Director, Pt. Deendayal Uppadhaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi Member-Secretary

The Committee may associate other experts and representatives of persons with disabilities, in its work, as necessary.