

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3882
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2010
FACILITIES FOR DISABLED
Abdulrahman Shri ;Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 envisages certain obligations on the Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action plan launched to provide adequate facilities to physically challenged as enumerated in the Act;
- (d) whether the Railways are satisfied with the implementation of the programmes meant for the disabled; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken by the Railways to ensure proper implementation of the programmes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) to (e) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3882 BY SHRI SIVASAMI C. AND SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.12.2010 REGARDING FACILITIES FOR DISABLED.

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Sections 33, 44, 45 and 46 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 are relevant to Ministry of Railways. The facilities for persons with disability are being provided within the limits of economic capacity and development as per the provisions of Sections 44, 45 & 46 of the same Act.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Railways have issued instructions to provide 3% reservation in posts as identified by Railways for persons with disability.

In terms of Section 44 of the Act relating to non-discrimination in transport, Indian Railways have so far manufactured about 2,100 coaches which have a suitably designed non air-conditioned compartment and toilet adapted to the needs of the disabled / wheel chair borne passengers. It is endeavoured to have at least one such coach in every Mail / Express train. Fully air- conditioned Garib Rath trains have been provided with an air-conditioned disabled friendly compartment and toilet in the power cars.

As per Sections 45 and 46 of the Act relating to non-discrimination on the road and in the built environment, Indian Railways have drawn up an Action Plan in terms of (1) Short Term Plan and (2) Long Term Plan. The facilities being provided in Short Term Plan are (i) Standard ramps for barrier free entry; (ii) Earmarking parking lots for vehicles used by disabled persons; (iii) Non-slippery walkway; (iv) Signages; (v) Toilets; (vi) Water taps suitable to the needs of handicapped persons & (vii) 'May I Help You' booth. The facilities provided in Long Term Action Plan are (i) Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer & (ii) Engraving on edges of platform.

Policy guidelines have been issued that all new elevators and lifts shall comply with the provision of Section 46(c) of the Act.

A prioritised action plan regarding provision of these facilities at stations is being implemented.