

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3635

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015

Amenities for Differently Abled

Singh Shri Abhishek

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

- (a) the details of the amenities for the differentlyabled in public places such as railway stations, bus-stands, Government offices such as the Collectorate made compulsory by the Government;
- (b) whether any mechanism exists for registering a complaint in case such amenities not made available and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey for ensuring the availability of the said amenities and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering expansion of the essential services for the empowerment of the differently abled; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) As per section 44 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, establishments in transport sector are required to take special measures for the benefit of the persons with disabilities such as adapt rail compartments, busses, vessels, aircrafts in such a way as to permit easy access to such persons and also adapt toilets in rail compartments, vessels, aircrafts and waiting rooms in such a way as to permit the wheel chair users to use them conveniently. Further, as per section 45 of the said Act, the appropriate Governments and local authorities are required to provide for installation of auditory signals at red lights on the public roads, curb cuts and slopes in pavements, engraving on the surface of the zebra crossing, devising appropriate symbols of disability and warning signals at appropriate places for benefits of persons with disabilities.

In addition, section 46 of the said Act mandates appropriate Governments and local authorities to provide for ramps in public buildings, adaptation of toilets for wheel chair users, braille symbols, and auditory signals in elevators or lifts, ramps in hospitals, primary health centres and other medical care and rehabilitation institutions.

(b) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and State Commissioners are responsible for looking into the complaints in matters relating to deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities, non-implementation of laws, rules, bye-laws, regulations, executive orders, guidelines or instructions made or issued by the appropriate Governments and local authorities for the welfare and protection of rights of persons with disabilities.

(c) The Ministry has not conducted any detailed survey on its own regarding the accessibility for persons with disabilities in public places throughout the country. However, the States/UTs have been directed by the Ministry to ensure accessibility in public buildings or hospitals.

(d) & (e) The Government has introduced the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 in the Rajya Sabha on 7.02.2014 which inter-alia envisages various rights and entitlement such as right to equality, right to life with dignity, community life, protection from cruelty and inhuman treatment, legal capacity etc. The Bill also mandates the appropriate Governments and local authorities to take various measures in the area of education, skill development, social security, recreation, accessibility in physical environment, transport, information, and communication etc. for the empowerment of persons with disabilities.
