

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:387
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014
RAMP FACILITY FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
Birla Shri Om

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide grants-in-aid to the States to provide barrier free access for differently abled persons in all public buildings/places in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether ramps have not been constructed in a large number in public places despite the instructions issued by the Government;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any work plan to ensure construction of ramps in the said places; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA), the Ministry provides Grants-in-aids to all States/UTs to provide barrier free environment in important government buildings (State Secretariat, other important State level offices, Collectorates, State University Buildings/ Campuses, Medical Colleges and Main Hospitals at Divisional Headquarters, other important Government buildings), for Persons with Disabilities as per Section 46 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation of Rights) Act, 1995 (PwD Act). This includes provision for ramps, rails, lifts, adaptation of toilets for wheelchair users, brail signage and auditory signals, tactile flooring, etc.

(c), (d) and (e) Section 44, 45 and 46 of PwD Act deals with non-discrimination in transport, non-discrimination on the road and non-discrimination in the built environment, respectively. All the Establishments, appropriate Governments and the local authorities are mandated by these provisions of the PwD Act to take, within the limits of their economic capacity, measures for providing easy accessibility for persons with disabilities in a non-discriminatory manner.

The Ministry as well as the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) from time to time request the State Govts./UT Administrations for providing barrier free access to public places by constructing ramps, lifts and railings.

Vide letter dated 24.01.2012, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) has written to all the Chief Secretaries of the States/UT Administrations among other things to take concrete and time bound steps to enforce accessibility standards and guidelines.

CCPD also takes up with the concerned State Govts./authorities as and when non- availability of facilities for access to public places for persons with disabilities comes to notice.

The Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities of the concerned States are also requested to follow up with their respective State Govts./UT Administrations.

A letter dated 8.07.2014 has also been sent from Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to the Chief Ministers of all States requesting them to issue suitable directions to all concerned for taking appropriate measures in concrete and time-bound manner for incorporation of barrier free access to all public buildings and transportation. They have also been requested that similar provisions may be made in local municipal/ building bye-laws.