

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:171
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006
ACCESSIBILITY FOR DISABLED PERSONS
Sippiparai Shri A. Ravichandran

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

- (a) Whether inaccessibility to public buildings and present transport system have deprived the disabled persons from getting education and job opportunities;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any measures to ensure barrier free designs and access features for disabled persons in all future construction; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

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

Statement referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 171 for answer on 03.08.2006 put forth by Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai, regarding `Accessibility for Disabled Persons`.

(a) Although there is no specific study to show that lack of barrier free built environment has been one of the impediments for access to education and job opportunities, yet, this can generally be said to be the situation.

(b) & (c) In addition to the enactment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, which provides for, besides other matters, barrier free access in trains and buses and lifts with Braille and auditory signals in public buildings, the following measures have been taken in recent years:-

(i) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, Central Public Works Department and Universities to provide barrier free facilities in their buildings/ hostels.

(ii) 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. Ten States and four Union Territories and 438 Municipalities and Local bodies have reported adoption of Model Building Bye Laws.

(iii) Financial assistance is also being provided for removal of architectural barriers in existing/ new schools under the scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children. (IEDC).

(iv) Funds to the extent of Rs.1.04 crore have been provided to the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) for construction of disabled friendly bus stands on the route where disabled friendly buses have been introduced by the DTC.