

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2041
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2021)

EXEMPTION FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

2041 SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:
DR. V. SIVADASAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether differently abled Government employees were given exemption from work during the lockdown period;
- (b) whether the DoPT has received complaints from any organisation/individual regarding their department violating the guideline;
- (c) the departments, institutions and bodies against whom such complaints have been received and the remedial action taken; and
- (d) whether the DoPT circular granting exemption to disabled employees continues to be in force and the period for which it will remain valid?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES
AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

(a): As a preventive measure to contain spread of COVID-19, Government employees, who are Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), were exempted from attending office and allowed to work from home with effect from 27.03.2020 to 12.02.2021, and thereafter, from 19.04.2021 to 30.06.2021.

(b): Representations received have been forwarded to concerned Administrative Ministry/Department for appropriate action.

(c): The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) received representations/ grievances regarding non-implementation of DoPT circulars by Public Sector Banks and other Government organisations. Based on the circulars issued by the DoPT, DEPwD requested the Department of Financial Services, the Department of Public Enterprises and the Railway Board to issue appropriate instructions for compliance of the instructions on the subject.

A total of 17 complaints were received in the Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) from the PwDs against Central Government Departments/Central Public Sector Undertakings/Banks regarding difficulties in attending office due to non-availability of public transport, requests for allowing them to work from home and on other issues. Appropriate directions / recommendations were given to the concerned authorities by the Office of CCPD for safeguarding the rights of PwDs.

(d): No, Sir.
