

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.101
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN

*101 SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) the status of the Accessible India Campaign in Uttar Pradesh regarding public buildings, transportation systems, and information and communication technologies that have been made accessible;
- (b) the total amount of funds allocated and utilised for the Accessible India Campaign in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any audits for reviewing the implementation of the Scheme since the launch;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of plans/initiatives proposed by Government for Uttar Pradesh, including any amendments to existing policies?

ANSWER

Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment

(Dr. Virendra Kumar)

- (a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 101 FOR REPLY ON 04.12.2024 REGARDING ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN ASKED BY SHRI SANJAY SETH, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(a) & (b) The Central Government launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide initiative for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) on December 3, 2015. The Accessible India Campaign was meant to serve as an inspiration for the State Governments/ UT Administrations and the private sector to act in the direction of securing the accessibility rights of the Persons with Disabilities which became the intent of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The Campaign has three important verticals, namely - Build Environment, Transportation sector and Information and Communication Technologies ecosystem. After accessibility audit of buildings of 06 cities of Uttar Pradesh under Built Environment Accessibility Campaign, State Government of UP submitted proposals for financial assistance towards incorporation of accessibility features/ retrofitting in Government-owned buildings. The Central Government released Grant-in-Aid of Rs. 54.34 Crore for 138 buildings under the Accessible India Campaign sub-scheme. The State Government has submitted the utilization certificates for Rs. 50.47 Crore till date. Also, under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment sub-scheme of Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), Grant-in-Aid of Rs 8.95 crore has been provided to the Uttar Pradesh Government to make 39 buildings accessible till date.

Under the Information and Communication Eco-system Accessibility vertical, a total of Rs. 23.52 Crore was released to the Education and Research Network of India (ERNET India) for making the Government's websites accessible across States/UTs including the 17 websites of Government of UP. Further, the Ministry of Civil Aviation undertook steps to make 02 international and 04 domestic airports accessible in the State of Uttar Pradesh under the targets of Transportation System Accessibility. 77 railway stations in the State of Uttar Pradesh have also been made accessible. As reported by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, 10,497 buses under the UP State Transport Undertakings have been made accessible.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir, the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development conducted the review of the implementation of Accessible India Campaign as a third party evaluation. Some key findings of this evaluation were:

- During the study, it was seen that 80.51% of the buildings were funded for retrofitting.
- The campaign covered major government buildings across the country.
- A positive attitudinal change was observed amongst government functionaries and general public towards the right of persons with disabilities to safe and easy access to public places due to this campaign.

(e) The Government has undertaken following initiatives to facilitate the persons with disabilities:

- Modernization of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur was undertaken to enhance production efficiency and product quality at a total project cost of Rs. 338.04 crores. The total production capacity has since increased by 2.5 times. Further, ALIMCO has established 05 'Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra' (PMDKs) in the State of Uttar

Pradesh. These centers provide essential services to PwDs and senior citizens that include providing artificial limbs, prosthetics, orthotics, motorized tricycles/wheelchairs, hearing aids etc. to walk-in eligible beneficiaries.

- During the last 03 years under the Scheme of Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances, the number of camps organized and beneficiaries covered in the state of Uttar Pradesh are as under :-

Year	Number of beneficiaries	Number of Camps	Funds Utilized (in Rs. croes)
2021-22	33,697	256	28.55
2022-23	35,149	281	38.11
2023-24	50,045	286	74.80

- Under the Awareness Generation and Publicity scheme, 01 Divya Kala Mela was organized at Varanasi during the previous year.
- New buildings have been constructed at Composite Regional Centre, Lucknow and Composite Regional Centre, Gorakhpur at a cost of Rs. 35.96 Crore, which has made it easier to provide quality rehabilitation services to Divyangjans.
- The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has recently accorded approval for setting up of a new Composite Regional Centre at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
