

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1085
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2024

ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN

1085# SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

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

- (a) the targets set for Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan;
- (b) whether Government's intent under this campaign is to establish an accessible environment, transport system and information and communication ecosystem for persons with disabilities;
- (c) whether Sugamya Bharat App has been developed to increase sensitivity towards these three pillars and make it accessible to all; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

(a) to (b): Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide Campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) on December 3, 2015. It had three important verticals, namely – *the Build Environment, the Transportation sector and ICT ecosystem.*

i. **Part A: Built Environment Accessibility:-**

Objective:- Enhancing the number of accessible government buildings.

ii. **Part B: Transportation System Accessibility:-**

Objective: - Enhancing proportion of accessible airports, enhancing the proportion of accessible Railway stations and enhancing the proportion of accessible public transport.

iii. **Part C: Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility:-**

Objectives: Enhancing proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites that meet internationally recognized accessibility standards, enhancing the pool of sign language interpreters, enhancing the proportion of daily captioning and sign-language interpretation of public television news programmes. The targets set for Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan along with their status may be seen at *Annexure A*.

(c) to (d): Sugamya Bharat App - is a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application, for sensitizing and enhancing accessibility in the built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India. The vision and direction for this crowdsourcing App based on *Jan-Bhagidari* is improving accessibility in our country with an objective of enabling Divyangjan and general public to bring to notice accessibility-related issues that require redressal. It is an initiative of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. It is available on both iOS and android platforms and can also be downloaded from the website: "<https://sugamyabharat.gov.in/>"

Annexure -A

S.No	Target	Status
1	<p>Target of enhancing the proportion of Accessible Government Buildings:</p> <p>Target 1.1 : Completing accessibility audit of at least 25-50 most important government buildings in 50 cities and making them fully accessible by June, 2022;</p> <p>Target 1.2 : Making 50% of all the government buildings of the National Capital and all the State Capitals fully accessible by June, 2022;</p> <p>Target 1.3: Completing accessibility audit of 50% of government buildings and making them fully accessible in 10 most important cities/towns of states not covered in targets 1.1 and 1.2 by June, 2022</p>	<p>For Target (1.1) – State Government buildings</p> <p>In the State Governments / UTs, auditors completed Access Audit of 1671 buildings in 48 cities. 1671 access audit reports have been submitted to the State's/UTs Nodal Officers. Further, 20 States/UTs reported to have completed retrofitting work in 648 buildings.</p> <p>For Target 1.2 and 1.3</p> <p>7 States/UTs have informed that 2839 State Government buildings have been selected to be made accessible under Targets/Phases (1.2) and (1.3) from their own funds.</p> <p>For Central Government building under the targets of built up environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial proposals for retrofitting of 1484 buildings have been received so far. Sanction has been issued by the Department in respect 1314 buildings amounting to Rs. 553.59 Crore as on 31.03.2022. • In the Central Government, CPWD reported completion of retrofitting in 1030 out of selected 1100 Central Government buildings targeted under Accessible India Campaign in FY 2020-21.
2	<p>Target of enhancing the proportion of Accessible Transport System [Airports, Railway Stations and Public Transport Carriers (Buses)].</p> <p>Target 2.1 and 2.2 - Airports: All international airports and domestic airports to be made fully accessible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 35 international airports & 55 out of 69 domestic airports provided with accessibility features (ramps, accessible toilets, helpdesks and lifts with Braille and auditory information systems), Further, all international/customs airport are reported to have been provided with aerobridges. • Tactile path has been provided at majority of the airports whereas 41 airports have been equipped with aerobridges and ambulifts are available at 12 airports and the same is being

		<p>procured for other airports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has also issued an advisory to make seamless screening of Divyangjan at airports. In this regard, CISF has also revised their SoPs, stressing upon the need to improve soft skills to provide better journey experience. • The accessibility standards have been formulated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The process of conducting public consultation is underway.
3	Target 3.1 and 3.2 - Railways: A1, A & B categories of railway stations to be made fully accessible; 50% of all railway stations to be made fully accessible;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 709 A1, A & B category railway stations have been provided with the seven (07) Short-Term Facilities identified by Ministry of Railways, namely, ramps, two parking lots for Divyangjan, non-slippery walkways from parking to station building, signage, at least one drinking water tap, one accessible toilet and 'May I Help You' booth. • 603 railway stations have been provided with additional two (02) Long-Term Facilities namely, Provision of facility of inter platform transfer & Engraving on edges (tactile indicators) of platform.
4	Target 4.1 - Buses: 25% of Government owned public transport carriers are to be made fully accessible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoRTH reported that in FY 2020-21, out of 1,47,152 buses, 44153 (30.01%) buses are partially accessible and 8443 (8.73%) buses are fully accessible.
5	<p>Target of enhancing the portion of accessible government websites; pool of sign language interpreters; captioning and sign language interpretation of public television news programmes.</p> <p>Target 5.1 and 5.2 - Websites: At least 50% of Central and State Government websites are to meet accessibility standards:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department has sanctioned Rs.26.19 Cr. to ERNET India to make 917 States/UTs websites accessible, out of which, Rs.23.52 Cr. has been disbursed. Total 603 State Governments websites have been made accessible including 459 websites made live. • 95 websites of Central Government Ministries/Departments are made accessible by MeitY under the Content Management Framework.

6	<p>Target 6.1 - Sign Language Interpreters Training and Developing 200 additional sign language interpreters:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government has established Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, in September 2015. The main objective of the Centre is to develop manpower for using, teaching and conducting research in Indian Sign Language. ISLRTC has informed that more than 1000 persons have been trained in Indian sign language through Diploma and Short Term Courses of ISLRTC. Total 93 students have completed Diploma in Indian Sign Language Interpretation (DISLI) course in three academic sessions during 2016-17 to 2018-19. ISLRTC is currently running one batch of DISLI for the academic year 2019-21.
7	<p>Target 7.1 and 7.2 - T.V Viewing:</p> <p>(a) Public television news – National standards on captioning and sign language interpretation are to be created and adopted;</p> <p>(b)At least 25% of public television programs on government channels are to comply with the set standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility standards for accessible TV viewing by persons with hearing impairment have already been issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) for providing for sub-titling, sign language interpretation along with accessibility for televisions sets, remote controls, equipment and internet content. Further, MoIB has to formulate similar guidelines for other disabilities including visual impairment. Accessible content on TV is also being enhanced in a phased manner and so far 19 private news channels are telecasting partially accessible news bulletin, 2447 news bulletins have been telecast with subtitling/sign-language interpretation and more than 3686 scheduled programs/movies using subtitling have been telecast by general entertainment channels.
