

Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
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Facilitating Differently Abled

Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) and the State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities are responsible to monitor implementation of the provisions of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 including provisions for accessibility enshrined in the said Act. During the period from 1.01.2014 to 31.12.2014, the Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities had received 56 complaints related to accessibility of public buildings, public places, and public facilities for persons with disabilities. The Office of CCPD has taken up the complaints with concerned authorities.

As per Section 44 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, establishments in the transport sector, within the limits of their economic capacity and development for the benefit of persons with disabilities, are required to take special measures to adapt rail compartments, buses, vessels and aircrafts in such a way as to permit easy access to such persons and adapt toilets in rail compartments, vessels, aircrafts and waiting rooms in such a way as to permit the wheel chair users to use them conveniently. Further, as per Section 46 of the said Act, the appropriate Government and local authorities, within the limits of their economic capacity and development, are required to provide for:

- i. ramps in public buildings;
- ii. adaptation of toilets for wheel chair users;
- iii. braille symbols and auditory signals in elevators or lifts;
- iv. ramps in hospitals, primary health centres and other medical care and rehabilitation institution.

The Ministry has taken the matter with the State Governments, UT Administration and concerned Ministries/Departments to comply with the above provisions of the Act from time to time. Further, the Ministry also provides financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations and institutions run by Central/State Governments for making their important buildings accessible to persons with disabilities. The Government has launched a pan India accessibility campaign to promote accessibility for persons with disabilities in built-in environment, public transportation etc. The National Building Code India 2005 incorporated detailed provisions for construction of buildings and made accessible design an inherent part of all plans. The enforcement of these codes and guidelines rests with the local authorities. The office of CCPD takes up the matter with the State Governments and UT Administrations for providing barrier free access for persons with disabilities to public places, amending building Bye-laws, making it mandatory to incorporate accessibility features before passing any building plan and giving completion certificate. The office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities also organizes workshops on barrier free environment for persons with disabilities.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha here today.
