CIRCULAR

Please find herewith enclosed a MOT letter No. A-42011/3/2018-Estt dt. 15.11.2019 regarding Implementation of Accessible India Campaign (AIC) along with its enclosures.

In this regard necessary action may please be initiated immediately under intimation to CO.

Further a report on implementation of the above scheme may please be forwarded to C.O. for onward transmission to M.O.T.

(K.DHANRAJ)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (COMP.)

TO

All CSB institutes.
No. A-42011/3/2018-Estt
Ministry of Textiles
Government of India

Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi
November, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Implementation of Accessible India Campaign (AIC).

The undersigned is directed to forwarding herewith a copy of DO No. 4-83/2016-AIC (Vol. II) dated 29.10.2019 (copy enclosed) received from Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on the subject cited above for information and compliance.

(Jayashree Sivakumar)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Encl: As above

To,
1. All attached/subordinate offices.
2. All Autonomous/Statutory Bodies.
3. Heads of all PSUs.
In reference to the D.O. letter of even no. dated 30th August, 2019 regarding the directions given by Hon’ble Prime Minister on the Accessible India Campaign (AIC) during the PRAGATI meeting held on 31st July 2019, it is informed that a meeting of Committee of Secretaries (CoS) was held on 4th October 2019 chaired by the Cabinet Secretary to review the implementation of the said Campaign.

2. The CoS has recommended and issued further directions to be followed by all Ministries/Departments to ensure that progress in creating barrier free environment is done in an organized and concrete manner such that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016) is properly implemented within the timeframes laid down. In this regard, the actions to be initiated immediately have been enumerated below:

i. Ensuring all the new buildings of State Governments or agencies subordinate to them, are designed to be fully accessible: The buildings have to be made accessible as per “Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly Persons, 2016” issued by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). For the sake of convenience and understanding, a simplified list of specifications of key accessibility features has also been circulated vide D.O. letter of even no. dated 31st August, 2019 and a descriptive presentation can be accessed using the link http://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/ppt%2025-09(1).pdf. This PPT, describes (3 outdoor and 7 indoor) features showing the good practices viz-a-viz the one seen on ground to help make the buildings accessible for PwDs.

ii. Monitoring the retrofitting of existing buildings of Central and State Governments, particularly the buildings of large public institutions like Hospitals, Colleges, Universities, Courts, Collectorates etc. to make them fully accessible.

Cont..... /2
MoHUA may provide all possible support in this regard: The RPwD Act, 2016 mandates that all public centric buildings are made accessible within a time frame of 5 years of notification of concerned rules i.e. by 2022. Also, it is informed the Act provides for penal action in case of non-compliance, thereby putting the onus on the owner of the building or the competent government as the case may be. Thus, it must be ensured that all Central Ministry/Department owned buildings are retrofitted within the stipulated time in accordance with the Harmonized Guidelines.

iii. Post retrofitment verification audit must be carried out to ensure technical correctness and compliance to standards of the work being executed. MoHUA has informed that 120 access auditors have been identified and post retrofitment verification audit is already being conducted by them for CPWD buildings. Hence, the Ministry may be approached for any support in this regard.

iv. Development of crowd sourcing mobile application(s) to maintain robust and dynamic public information repository of accessibility standards for public buildings, transportation and ICT systems while capturing the feedback from public about the issues being faced by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in using public buildings and services:

   a. DEPwD is developing and launching a crowd sourcing mobile application to maintain robust and dynamic public information repository on accessibility standards in all public buildings, ICT and transportation systems.

   b. On the same lines a mobile application may be launched by your concerned department immediately as well, to capture and process issues raised by Divyangjan on real-time basis such that their concerns may be understood and collated for giving better service delivery.

v. Respective Ministries/Departments must adopt, implement and enforce the guidelines as envisaged under Section 40-46 of the RPwD Act, 2016.

3. A Management Information System (MIS) portal for AIC has been launched in September wherein provision has been made for uploading the details of accessibility features (building-wise) along with photographs. (URL: http://jmaic.nic.in). Training has been imparted to Ministries/Departments associated with AIC and User IDs and Passwords have also been provided to nodal officers. It may be seen that the pictures are updated by 5<sup>th</sup> of next month and that these are cleared at Joint Secretary level before uploading.

Cont.... /3
4. I shall be grateful for your personal intervention to get the aforesaid action points expedited in order to make the environment barrier free and accessible to the Divyangjan (PwDs) so as to not be found wanting in meeting the legal rights for accessibility as laid down by the RPwD Act, 2016. I would also request you to monitor and track the progress of these features implemented by your administration on a priority basis.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Shakuntala D. Gamlin)

Shri Ravi Capoor
Secretary,
Ministry of Textiles,
Udyog Bhawan,
New Delhi-110011
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Accessibility Features in Built-Up Environment and Transportation Systems

Attention is drawn to Secretary, DEPwD’s letter of even number dated 30th August, 2019 [copy enclosed for ease of reference] wherein 12 key accessibility features had been outlined to be mandatorily provided in any built-up environment as minimum requirements and specifications under the Accessible India Campaign (AIC).

2. To further enhance understanding of the specifications and requirements of these features of accessibility, a Power Point Presentation (PPT) was made by the Department in the presence of Hon’ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment (SJE) and Hon’ble Minister of MoS (SJE) on September 18, 2019. The said PPT is being circulated herewith amongst all stakeholders since it captures the basic minimum requirements in respect of the accessible features along with glimpses of good practices from across the globe. These practices have been juxtaposed with issues observed in their implementation in buildings that have been retrofitted under the AIC by Central and State executing agencies. The purpose of sharing this PPT is to spread awareness and sensitivity on providing a barrier-free environment while offering a “Quick-Reference” tool for better implementation for moving towards universal accessibility.

3. Since all public Government buildings have to be made accessible, it is, therefore, requested this PPT may be circulated amongst concerned departments/officers so that quality of retrofitting in existing buildings where work is being executed and is yet to be taken up, can be improved and barrier-free environment ensured for all Persons with Disabilities.

4. Furthermore, the Action Taken Report (ATR) as requested earlier vide Secretary, DEPwD’s letter of even number dated 30th August, 2019 may also be provided by 01st October, 2019 so that issues could be discussed in the forthcoming CoS meeting on AIC to be held on 4th October, 2019.

(Tarika Roy)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. No. – 011-234669069

To
All Secretaries of Central Ministries/Departments