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Disabled community hails rights' Bill passage in RS

Satabhisa Bhaumik | TNN

New Delhi: After a wait of six long years, Disabled Rights Group (DRG) rejoiced when the Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the Rights for Persons with Disability (RPwD) Bill on Wednesday.

Disabled communities and their representatives across the country applauded the move. Convener of DRG, Javed Abidi, said it was a "historic day" and hoped that the Lok Sabha will show a similar sense of urgency and compassion while handling the bill. "I sincerely hope that the Lok Sabha will pass the bill in the next two days," he said.

Director of Action for Autism, Merry Barua, welcomed the news but said it will take time before the bill becomes a law. "For the first time, autism will be accommodated within the fold of disability and the affected protected by law. It is indeed an important milestone as it will give more scope for travel, education and employment for the autistic," she said.

Deputy director of Muskaan, Seema Chad-



MORE SPACE: The new Bill covers 21 categories against the seven in the earlier Disability Act of 1995

ha, too, felt that the Bill is dependent on proper implementation.

Many feel that the Disability Act of 1995 is archaic as it includes only seven categories. The new bill covers 21 categories and includes acid attack victims, autism, blood disorders, dwarfism and learning disabilities, which were earlier missing from the act.