

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2031
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS
Ram Shri Purnmasi;Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

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

- (a) the number of disabled persons in the country as on date;
- (b) whether only a small fraction of the disabled persons have been provided assistance under assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliance Scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to expand the coverage of the said scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (D. NAPOLEON)

- (a) There are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities as per the Census 2001 in the country.
- (b) & (c) The following number of beneficiaries were provided assistance under the Scheme for the last three years;-

Financial No. of beneficiaries
Year (in lakhs)

2006-07	3.07
2007-08	2.24
2008-09	2.80 (estimated)

The number of beneficiaries covered depends on the allocation/release of funds under the Scheme for each year.

- (d) The steps taken to increase the coverage of beneficiaries under the Scheme include district-wise allocation of funds and efforts to increase the number of Implementing Agencies to deliver the services.