

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1803  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014  
PURCHASE OF WHEELCHAIRS  
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

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

- (a) whether the Government has procured large number of wheelchairs for distribution to the persons with disabilities in order to facilitate them for voting in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections in various parts of the country including Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount utilised for the purpose ;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to distribute wheelchairs to the poorer section of the society in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such wheelchairs are likely to be provided to them?

**Answer**

Minister of the State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) to (b) : No Sir. The Government has not procured any wheelchairs for distribution to persons with disabilities in order to facilitate them for voting in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections.

Provisions under Rule 49 N of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, Election Commission of India guidelines, and Hon'ble Supreme Court orders, directly address the issue of assistance to people with disabilities. As per which physically challenged electors are required to be given priority for entering the polling station, without having to wait in the queue.

The Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi had taken a meeting on 21-03-2014 regarding measures to facilitate voters with disabilities in exercising their right to franchise during the Lok Sabha General Election 2014, in the Parliamentary Constituencies of Delhi. It was, inter-alia, decided in the meeting that at least one Wheel Chair may be provided at each polling station along with a volunteer/attendant to assist voters with disabilities. The Chief Electoral Officer, Uttar Pradesh also took a meeting on 19-04-2014 for making arrangements during the Lok Sabha General Election 2014 in the Parliamentary Constituencies of Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Allahabad and Varanasi. It was decided in the meeting that wheelchairs would be provided in nominated polling stations of these Constituencies.

Accordingly, the Ministry made arrangements for providing wheel chairs through Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur, a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry. The wheelchairs were provided to District Collectors for use on the Election Day during the Lok Sabha General Election 2014. After the Elections, the wheelchairs were collected back by ALIMCO.

The Election Commission of India had also conveyed their 'No Objection' vide letter dated 10.4.2014 on the proposal of the Department to provide wheelchairs to facilitate voters with disabilities in exercising their right to franchise on Election Day.

Constituency-wise break up of wheelchairs supplied by ALIMCO are:

Delhi: 2597 Nos.  
Lucknow: 750 Nos.  
Kanpur Nagar: 750 Nos.  
Allahabad: 750 Nos.  
Varanasi: 750 Nos.  
Total: 5597 Nos.

(c) & (d): Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP) of the Ministry, grants-in-aid is released to various implementing agencies for purchase, fabrication and distribution of such standard aids and appliances that are in conformity with the objectives of the Scheme, to assist needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern aids and appliances including wheelchairs that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential. Person with disabilities having monthly income from all sources not exceeding Rs. 20,000/- per month are covered for assistance under the Scheme.