

Year	Total No. of the handicapped beneficiaries	Blind men and women
1984-85	13,560	1,515

(viii) A scheme for granting financial assistance to voluntary organisations to expand their activities in education, training and rehabilitation of disabled persons including the blind (both men and women)

is administered by the Ministry of Welfare. During last year the number of organisations for the blind given assistance and the grant given is as follows :

Year	No. of Organisation for the blind men and women	Grant sanctioned
1984-85	34	62.30 lakhs

(ix) The scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances aims at providing special aids and appliances to the disabled including the blind men and women. Under this scheme aids and appliances costing between Rs. 25 and Rs. 1500 are given either free of cost or @

50% of the cost to those whose income is less than Rs. 750 per month and between Rs. 751 and 1,500 per month respectively. During the year 1984-85 the total number of the handicapped including blind men and women assisted under the scheme is as under :

Year	Total No. of the handicapped beneficiaries	(Both blind men and women)
1984-85	26,981	959

Separate information exclusively on such women is not available.

[English]

**Discussion with US Administration  
about Plight of Tamils**

4872. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been discussions with the United States Administration about the plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the US Administration in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.  
During talks with the US Administration,

the question of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka has been discussed. The US side was apprised of the extensive time and effort being devoted by the Indian Government in trying to assist both sides in reaching a political settlement. The US Administration has also been informed that Govt. was disappointed and concerned at the Sri Lankan authorities' approach in seeking a military solution.

(b) US Govt. Indicated that it supported India's efforts and approach to have a political dialogue leading to a negotiated settlement.

**Appeals pending in the Department of  
Public Grievances**

4873. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to