

Law to help disabled voters

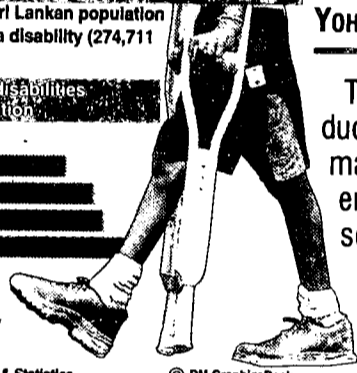
DISABLED POPULATION IN SRI LANKA By KELUM BANDARA AND YOHAN PERERA

1.6% of the total Sri Lankan population has some kind of a disability (274,711 people)

Age group	No. of disabled population
0-4 yrs	4,857
5-9 yrs	11,681
10-14 yrs	14,246
15-19 yrs	15,168
20-24 yrs	19,244

73.3% of all disabled people are supported by their families

Source: Dep. of Census & Statistics



The government yesterday introduced legislation in Parliament to make provision for a disabled voter to be accompanied by a person when voting at elections.

The new Bill which was presented in the House would be taken up for debate soon.

Law to help...

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The Bill provides for the accompanying person to make the ballot paper as directed by the voter concerned in the presence of the presiding officer and another member of his polling staff.

"The accompanying person should not be a candidate at the relevant election, nor should he be a presiding officer, an authorized officer or a polling agent at the relevant election," according to the bill.

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