

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5227

ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001

ANNAPURNA SCHEME FOR OLD AGE PERSONS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that only those old age persons are entitled for Annapurna Scheme, who are not getting any other benefits from the Union Government or the State Government;
- (b) if so, whether as a result of this criteria, more than 50% old age people of the country are being deprived of the said scheme;
- (c) if so, whether the State Government have urged the Union Government to change the eligibility criteria of this scheme so that all the old age people in their States may avail this facility; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ( SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a)&(b) To be eligible for benefit under the Annapurna Scheme, an Applicant should be a destitute aged 65 years or above and should not be in receipt of pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). The Scheme aims at covering in the first instance only 20% of the persons targeted for coverage under NOAPS.

(c)&(d) A few State Governments which are not implementing the Annapurna Scheme have urged the Union Government to change the eligibility criteria under the Scheme. Appropriate modifications to the Annapurna Scheme are under consideration of the Government.