

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4298  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2001  
NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION TO BPL PEOPLE  
PRABHA RAU

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

- (a) the number of Below Poverty Line people who qualify for national old age pension; and
- (b) the steps taken or being taken to cover all of them under the scheme?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)

(a) and (b): As per the guidelines of the National Old Age Pension Scheme, destitute persons aged 65 years or above having little or no regular means of subsistence from their own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources are eligible for pension under the Scheme. The Numerical Ceilings for the number of such destitute persons below Poverty Line qualifying for receiving National Old Age Pension have been estimated at 68.81 lakhs. With the constraint of resources, it is currently not possible to cover all the targeted beneficiaries as per the Numerical Ceilings.