

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3510
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
RELEASE OF FUNDS UNDER NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION
N.T. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria fixed to release the National Old Age Pension through mediators to the old and destitutes in the country ;
- (b) whether this scheme does not reach out of the people of far flung, remote and isolated areas in the country;
- (c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, funds are released by the Government of India to the District Level Committees/District Rural Development Agencies in the States/Union Territories for making payment to the beneficiaries identified in Gram Sabhas by the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and in neighbourhood/Mohalla Committees by the Municipalities in the urban areas. Payments to the beneficiaries are made through their accounts in a Post Office Savings Bank or in a Commercial Bank or through Postal Money Order. Cash disbursement is also permitted provided the payment is made in public meetings, preferably of Gram Sabhas in villages and Neighbourhood/Mohalla Committees in urban areas. With the operation of the scheme through the Gram Panchayats, the scheme has been successful in providing social assistance to destitute persons aged 65 years and above even in far-flung and remote areas of the country.