

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4061

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000

HOMES PENSIONS FOR OLD PERSONS

AMAR ROY PRADHAN;MD ANWARUL HAQUE;NIVEDITA MANE;RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the facilities/relief likely to be provided to Senior Citizens during the year 2000;
- (b) whether it is a fact that under the National Policy on old age persons recognizes all persons of the age of 60 plus as older persons;
- (c) whether it is also a fact the various facilities/concessions given by the Railways and Airlines are given to older persons of the age of 65 years and plus and also by the State Governments on various schemes drawn for this purpose including the DTC passes at concession rates in Delhi;
- (d) whether the Government propose to take up this issue with the Railways/Airlines and the State Governments to recognise the age of older persons of 60 years plus for extending these concessions;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefore; and (g) whether the Government would consider to provide cheap shelter to homeless old persons to protect them from diseases, and weather conditions in the Metropolitan cities and other big cities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) The National Policy on Older Persons, announced by the Government in January, 1999, visualises that the State will extend support for financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other needs of older persons, provide protection against abuse and exploitation, make available opportunities for development of the potential of older persons, seek their participation and provide services so that they can improve the quality of their lives. The Policy has been circulated to all State Governments and Central Government Ministries and Departments to prepare their respective Action Plans for implementation of the Policy. As envisaged in the Policy, a Central Action Plan has also been prepared and it is expected that with its implementation Senior Citizens would get a number of facilities/relief during the year 2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)&(e) Yes, Sir. In fact, the issue was taken up with a number of Central Ministries. The Ministry of Railways have responded to say that they do not agree to lowering the age of older persons from 65 to 60 plus for extending these concessions.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The National Policy on Older Persons provides that shelter being a basic human need, housing schemes for urban and rural income segments will earmark 10% of houses/house sites for allotment to older persons. The Policy has already been circulated to all Central Ministries including the Ministry of Urban Development as also to the State Governments to consider the implementation of points relating to them including the one regarding shelter for older persons.

