

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1301
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2002
NATIONAL POLICY ON THE AGED PERSONS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

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

- (a) whether Article 41 of the Constitution enjoins upon the State to secure the rights of the aged persons to public assistance and make provisions of their well-being;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have formulated the National Policy on aged persons;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the progress so far made to implement the provisions of the National Policy on aged persons?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, a National Policy on Older Persons has been formulated in January 1999.

(c) & (d) The Policy, inter-alia, visualises support for financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other needs of older persons, protection against exploitation, provision of opportunities for development of potential and provision of services to improve the quality of their lives and their meaningful participation in the community and need for affirmative action in favour of elderly. Financial assistance has been provided by the Ministry to 609 NGOs to set up 391 Old AgeHomes, 469 Day Care Centres, 83 Mobile Medicare Units and 2 Non InstitutionalService Centres in the country. Under Annapurna Scheme, 10 kg of food grain is distributed to each destitute elderly every month. All States/UTs have been advised to provide for separate queues for elderly persons in hospitals. Priority is given for telephone connections and to grievance redressal to Senior Citizens above 65 year. Senior Citizens are allowed concessional fares for rail and air travel. Some public sector banks are also allowing higher interest on deposits by the elderly. National Institute of Social Defence conducts three months course for NGO personnel engaged in geriatric care.