

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4561

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002

UNPF SCHEME FOR AGED

PRABHA RAU;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) has drawn up a scheme for the developing countries including India to help them dealing with the problems being faced by the aged persons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have made any survey about the number of aged and infirm persons;
- (d) if so, the number thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken about their health related matters;
- (e) whether the Government have sent proposal to the UN Population Fund for financial assistance for the welfare of these aged people; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the assistance is likely to be utilized?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) & (b) UNFPA has the mandate to work on population ageing in the developing regions, In 2002, UNFPA joined the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and Columbia University to work together to establish an international programme for capacity building and policy development in the area of population ageing in developing countries. This programme will conduct research and training of some government officials and NGO staff in social gerontology and ageing and will provide technical assistance to frame policies for the aged. India is not participating in this programme.

(c) & (d) As per information collected during Census 1991, the population of aged persons (60+) was 5.67 crores, which is 6.8% of the total population of the country.

The Government of India announced a National Policy for Older persons in January 1999. It aims at strengthening the legitimate place of older persons in society and help them to live the last phase of their life with purpose, dignity and peace. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a scheme of 'An Integrated Programme for Older Persons' under which grants-in-aid is provided to eligible organizations for establishing and maintaining Day-Care Centres, Old Age Homes, Mobile Medicare Units and for non-institutional services for the older persons. Under the Mobile Medicare Unit grant is given to NGOs for providing health care facilities to older persons.

In addition, Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and Medical Reimbursement Scheme have been extended to retired Central Government employees and their dependents. Health Insurance Schemes such as Bhavishya Arogya and Medichaim are also available for the elderly through General Insurance Corporation of India.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.