

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2000
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
ANNAPURNA SCHEME
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;RAVI PRAKASH VERMA;REENA CHOUDHARY

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

- (a) whether the Union Government are considering to launch 100% Centrally sponsored scheme `Annapurna` for the senior citizens;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the estimated number of senior citizens likely to be benefited under this scheme;

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
SMT. MANEKA GANDHI

(a) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Rural Development, who are administering this Scheme, the Annapurna Scheme will be launched from April, 2000.

(b) The salient features of the scheme are as follows:

(i) 10 Kgs. of grain per month are to be provided to all indigent senior citizens;

(ii) The eligibility norms applicable under National Old Age Pension Scheme

(NOAPS) will also apply to the Annapurna Scheme. In addition the beneficiary should not have been claiming pensions under NOAPS and his/her children should not be residing in the same village;

(iii) The Gram Panchayats are to identify, prepare and display a list of such persons after giving wide publicity.

(c) The estimated number of senior citizens likely to be covered is 13.76 lakhs.