

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1781

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

PENSION SCHEMES

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of existing schemes meant for providing pension to old age/widow/disabled etc. persons in the country along with the norms prescribed and age fixed there under;
- (b) the amount of pension being provided under these schemes, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated by the Government and expenditure incurred/funds utilized by each State and Union Territory on this count during each of the last three years and current year along with the reasons for not utilizing these funds;
- (d) the number of beneficiaries under each scheme during the said period, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding irregular disbursement of pension, wrong identification of beneficiaries etc. under these schemes;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and
- (g) the steps taken for effective monitoring/implementation of these schemes and towards enhancement of pension amount, if any?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a) Pension to aged, widow and disabled is provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) respectively. These pension schemes are components of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Two other components of NSAP are National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna.

Old age pension is provided under IGNOAPS to persons who are 65 years or higher. Widow pension is provided under IGNWPS to widows in the age group of 40-64 years.

Disability pension is provided under IGNDPS to persons having severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-64 years. All these three schemes are applicable to persons belonging to a household living below the poverty line (BPL).

(b) Under all the three pension schemes i.e. IGNOAPS, IGNWPS and IGNDPS, Central Assistance @ Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary is provided to States/UTs. States have been urged to contribute from State funds another Rs.200/- per month per beneficiary.

(c) NSAP has been transferred to State Plan since 2002-03 and funds are released as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) by the Ministry of Finance as a combined allocation for all the schemes under NSAP. The funds allocated and expenditure incurred/ funds utilized by each State and Union Territory under NSAP during each of the last three years and current year are given in Annexure-I. Some States could not utilize the total available funds with them due to slow progress in identification of all eligible beneficiaries.

(d) The number of beneficiaries reported by the States under each scheme during the said period, State-wise and Union Territory-wise is given in Annexure-II. IGNWPS and IGNDPS have been introduced in February 2009.

(e)&(f) Identification of beneficiaries and disbursement of pension/ benefit under the schemes of NSAP is being done by the concerned State Governments. Representations / complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the respective State Governments.

(g) Computerization of NSAP has been undertaken to improve transparency, accountability and monitoring. NSAP-MIS software has been developed and NSAP website <http://nsap.nic.in> has been launched. States have been advised to maintain a data base of beneficiaries and keep it in the public domain. Nodal Officers meeting and Performance Review Committee meetings with Secretaries of the States are held periodically to review the physical and financial progress in implementation of NSAP.