

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:25  
ANSWERED ON:03.07.2009  
OLD AGE PENSION SCHEMES  
Sushant Dr. Rajan

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the prevailing Centrally sponsored pension schemes for old age people, widows and disabled in rural areas and the structure of such schemes;
- (b) the mechanism to identify the beneficiaries and check irregularities in payment of pension under such schemes;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to raise the amount of pension being given to the beneficiaries and expand the scheme for the farmers above the age of 60 years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 25 for reply on 3rd July, 2009

(a) There is no prevailing `Centrally Sponsored Scheme` for grant of pension to old age persons, widows and disabled. However, central assistance is granted to them under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) which are components of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). NSAP which was introduced in 1995 as a `Centrally Sponsored Scheme` was later on transferred to State Plan in 2002-03 and is implemented by the State Governments. IGNOAPS is applicable to persons who are 65 years or higher, IGNWPS is applicable to widows in the age group of 40-64 years and IGNDPS is applicable to persons with severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-64 years. All the three pension schemes are meant for persons belonging to a household living below the poverty line. Central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary is provided in all the pension schemes and States are urged to contribute an equal amount. These pension schemes are applicable in rural as well as urban areas.

(b) States have been asked to identify the eligible beneficiaries in rural areas from BPL List 2002 and from corresponding lists in urban areas. Universal coverage of all the eligible beneficiaries is envisaged under the pension schemes. In order to check irregularities in payment of pension, States have been asked to disburse the pension under IGNOAPS through bank/ post office account, where feasible and in the case of IGNWPS and IGNDPS disbursement through bank/ post office account has been made mandatory. Further, in order to enhance transparency and accountability software for NSAP-MIS has been developed and States have been asked to place the data of beneficiaries in the public domain.

(c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to increase the central assistance or to expand the old age pension scheme for farmers above the age of 60 years.

(d) Does not arise.