

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:121

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010

PENSION SCHEME TO AGED WIDOWS AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched Pension Scheme for aged, widows and physically handicapped in the villages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government have also launched similar programmes for the welfare of those categories of people;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of people likely to be benefited under the scheme?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The Government of India has launched three Pension Schemes for the aged, widows and physically handicapped under National Social Assistance Programmed (NSAP). Central Assistance of Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary is provided to persons belonging to families living below the poverty line and States have been urged to contribute equally. The eligibility criteria for the pension schemes are as under:

(i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) launched in November, 2007 provides for pension to BPL persons who are 65 years and above.

(ii) Indira Gandhi National Widow Benefit Schemes (IGNWPS) launched in February, 2009 provides for pension to BPL widows in the age group of 40 – 64 years.

(iii) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) launched in February, 2009 provides for pension to BPL persons suffering from severe or multiple disabilities.

(c) & (d) Social Security is a concurrent subject under the Constitution of India and States are having their own similar schemes with varying eligibility conditions.

(e) The number of beneficiaries likely to be covered under IGNOAPS are 169 lakh, under IGNWPS are 45 lakh and under IGNDPS are 15 lakh.