

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1297  
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010  
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME  
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to expand the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme by easing its eligibility norms;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has decided to reduce the age for Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons receiving pension from 65 years to 60 years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government would consider extending pension even to widows, destitutes and the disabled; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise.

(d)&(e): Pension to widows and disabled is provided under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), respectively, which were launched in February 2009. Under IGNWPS, pension is provided to widows in the age group of 40-64 years. Under IGNDPS, pension is provided to persons with severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-64 years. Further, the eligibility criteria for grant of Old Age Pension has been liberalized from November 2007 under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) to cover all below poverty line (BPL) persons of age 65 years or higher. All the three pension schemes are applicable to persons belonging to a household below the poverty line. Central Assistance of Rs.200/- per month per beneficiary is provided to States and States have been urged to contribute equally so that a pensioner gets at least Rs.400/- per month.