

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:751
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011
PENSION SCHEME FOR WIDOW/HANDICAPPED
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring change in the criteria regarding pension for widow/handicapped under NCAP schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any suggestions have been received from Non-Governmental Organisation and other institutions in this regard; 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. At present, there is no proposal to bring change in the criteria regarding pension for widow/handicapped under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) schemes;
- (c) Social Security is in concurrent list of the constitution of India. State Governments are also implementing their own pension schemes for these sections of the society. The schemes under NSAP are in addition to the assistance which the State Governments are providing or may provide in future. Recently, Government of India has reduced the age limit for old age pension under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) from 65 years to 60 years and increased the assistance from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month per beneficiary to the persons who are 80 years of age and above. Further, expansion of these schemes would depend upon the resources available.
- (d) & (e) Yes, Sir. National Forum For Single Women's Rights, Udaipur had requested to provide pension to widows of all ages.