

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:103

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011

WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai; Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to certain instances of desertion/ill treatment of parents by their children reported from different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of the National Policy for Welfare of Senior Citizens alongwith the details of the various schemes implemented so far for the welfare of senior citizens under the National Policy by the Ministry, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any study to identify the number of senior citizens living in the urban and rural areas in the country to provide them social security measure; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (e) in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.103 for answer on 08.08.2011 regarding WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS by: DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI AND SHRI SAJJAN VERMA

(a) and (b): Instances of abuse/ abandonment of senior citizens by their children/ relatives come to notice from time to time.

A Central Act called The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, was enacted in December, 2007, to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare. The Act, inter-alia, makes maintenance of parents/ senior citizens by children/ relatives obligatory and justiciable through tribunals; provides for revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of negligence by relatives, and penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens.

The Act has to be brought into force by individual State Governments. So far, 22 States and all Union Territories have done so. It is not applicable to the State of Jammu & Kashmir, while Himachal Pradesh has its own Act for senior citizens. Bihar, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh are yet to bring the Act into force.

(c): A National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in January 1999, which envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons to improve the quality of their lives. Some of the principal areas of intervention identified in the Policy pertain to pension, taxation policies, long term savings, strengthening health care system, health insurance, training of health care personnel, promotion of voluntary organisations through grants, providing shelter, awareness generation regarding inter-generational bonding, protection of life and property, etc.

While action has also been taken by concerned Ministries in pursuance of various provisions of the Policy, this Ministry is implementing a Scheme called Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) under which financial assistance is provided to Governments/Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Local Bodies and Non Governmental Organisations for running and maintenance of projects like Old Age Home; Day Care Centre; Mobile Medicare Unit; Day Care Centre for Alzheimer's Disease/ Dementia Patients; Physiotherapy Clinic for Older Persons; Help-lines and Counselling Centres for Older Persons; Sensitizing Programmes for Children particularly in Schools and Colleges; Regional Resource and Training Centres; etc.

595 projects were assisted under IPOP during 2010-11 covering 38,785 beneficiaries in various States/ Union Territories. State-wise number of projects assisted and beneficiaries covered under the Scheme during 2010-11 is at Annex-I.

In pursuance of the NPOP, a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment. The NCOP is the highest body to advise the Government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the aged.

Every year, the Ministry celebrates the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) on 1st October. On this Day, Vayoshrestha Samman

is conferred on eminent senior citizens and Institutions, in recognition of their contribution in the field of ageing. Concerned Central Ministries and State Governments are also requested to celebrate IDOP in a befitting manner.

National Institute of Social Defence, an autonomous body under this Ministry, is also conducting One Year Post Graduate Diploma Course, Six Month Certificate Course and One Month Basic Course in Geriatric Care. 42 such training programmes covering 1068 beneficiaries were conducted during 2010-11.

(d) and (e): As per Census 2001, State-wise number of senior citizens (60+) living in urban and rural areas is at Annex-II.