

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4353

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011

FACILITIES TO ELDERS

Antony Shri Anto;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar;Saha Shri Anup Kumar

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

- (a) whether rapidly growing number of nucleus families amounts to human right violation of the elders as had been reported in the media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the various schemes by the Government to meet the basic needs of the elders in the country;
- (d) whether any survey by a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has proved that basic needs of the elders are overlooked;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) the time by which the schemes to make the living of the elders well equipped with all the facilities is likely to be formulated by the Government?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON)

(a) to (b): There is no authentic data in this regard, even though some cases are reported in the Media from time to time.

(c): The Central Government has implemented the following schemes to cater to the basic needs of the senior citizens in the country:

Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) has been implemented through Non-Government Organizations, Panchayati Raj / Local Bodies, etc. to cater to the basic needs of destitute senior citizens viz. shelter, food, recreation, health care, etc.

Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) has been implemented under which Central assistance is given towards pension @ Rs. 200/- per month to persons above 60 years and @ Rs.500/- per month to persons above 80 years belonging to a household below poverty line, which is meant to be supplemented by at least an equal contribution by the States.

National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) has been implemented to improve health services for the elderly.

Besides, various concessions in income tax rebate; rail and air fare; special medical facilities, etc. are provided to senior citizens by the Central Government.

(d): Studies have been carried out from time to time by various Organizations regarding abuse of senior citizens in the country.

(e) and (f): The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted in December, 2007 which 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, penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens, shelter, medical care facilities and protection of life and property.

The Act has to be brought into force by individual State Governments. So far, 22 States and all Union Territories have done so.

The Government has already provided assistance under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons to cater to the basic needs of destitute senior citizens viz. shelter, food, recreation, health care, etc.