

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1912

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011

OLD AGE PENSION

J Helen Davidson;Punia Shri P.L.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has revised the old age pension, given to the families covered under the BPL list;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is planning to renew the BPL lists that were prepared long before;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to pay old-age pension through banks; and
- (f) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir. Recently, with effect from 1st April, 2011, 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 has increased the assistance from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month for those beneficiaries who are 80 years of age and above.

(b) to (d): Identification of beneficiaries and disbursement of pension is the responsibility of the State Government. Beneficiaries are selected from the current BPL List, who fulfill the eligibility criteria. As and when the new BPL List becomes available, based on the ongoing Socio-Economic and Caste Census, 2011, the same would be taken into account for identification of eligible beneficiaries.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. State Governments have been advised to disburse pension, wherever feasible, through bank/ post office account of beneficiaries. No time limit in this regard has been prescribed. Presently, about 77 lakh beneficiaries are receiving pension through bank accounts.