

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3740

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2011

OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes run by the Government regarding old age pension at present;
- (b) the total funds allocated and spent under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the total number of beneficiaries under such schemes, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken to implement the same effectively?

Answer

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

(a): Under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Schemes (IGNOAPS), old age pension is provided to persons who are 60 years or higher and belong to a household below poverty line as per criteria prescribed by Government of India. Central assistance of ? 200/- per month per beneficiary is provided to States under IGNOAPS for beneficiaries in the age group of 60-79 years and 500/-for beneficiaries who are 80 years or above. States have been urged to contribute at least an equal amount from their own resources. In addition, some State Governments have their own old age pension schemes with varying eligibility criteria.

(b): IGNOAPS IS a Component Of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which was transferred to State plan in the year 2002-03. The funds under NSAP are released as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) by the Ministry of Finance to the States and by Ministry of Home Affairs to UTs in combined manner for all the schemes under NSAP together. The funds allocated and utilized under NSAP during the last three years and current year is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation	Utilisation
2008-09	4500.00	3875.31
2009-10	5200.00	4718.83
2010-11	5162.00	5480.60
2011-12	6158.00	894.68#

Rs. 2100.60 crore released upto July 2011.Expenditure as per reports received from state Governments.

(c): The number of beneficiaries provided assistance under IGNOAPS, State-wise is as in Annexure.

(d): Identification of beneficiaries and disbursement of pension under the scheme is responsibility of the State Governments. State Governments have been advised to disburse pension through Bank/Post Office accounts of beneficiaries, where feasible. Social Audit and Annual verification has also been introduced under NSAP. Further, State Governments have also been advised to prepare a database of beneficiaries and keep it in public domain to increase transparency and accountability.