

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5851

ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011

WIDOW PENSION SCHEME

Saroj Smt. Sushila;Upadhyay Seema;Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any pension scheme is run by the Government for widows in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated under the scheme during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the total number of beneficiaries under the scheme, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) had been launched since February, 2009 for widows of below poverty line (BPL) households of age 40-64 years. Central Assistance of Rs 200 per month is given to them under the scheme and State Governments have been requested to contribute at least equal amount from their own resources. A State-wise number of widows receiving benefit under IGNWPS as on 31/03/2011 is given in annexure.

Widows of 65 years and above were already covered under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). Since 1st April, 2011, age limit for receiving pension under IGNOAPS has been reduced to 60 years. Old age persons, including widows of 80 years and above receive central assistance of Rs 500 per month and old age persons of 60-79 years including widows receives central assistance of Rs 200 per month.

(c): The funds allocated for National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) schemes, which includes IGNWPS, during the last three years and the current year are 4500 crore during 2008-09, 5155 crore during 2009-10, 5162 crore during 2010-11 and 6158 crore during 2011-12.

(d): The number of beneficiaries provided central assistance under the IGNWPS, State-wise is as in Annexure.