

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3575

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011

PENSION TO OLD AGE AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Gohain Shri Rajen

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is considering to increase the fund allotted for old age pension since sizeable numbers of poor old age people in rural areas are deprived from the benefit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to relax the present norms of percentage of disability to give relief to the poor physically handicapped people;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to cover disabled persons of blind, dumb and deaf category under the scheme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): Under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), all persons who are 60 years and above and belonging to families living below poverty line are eligible to receive pension. Identification of beneficiaries, sanction and disbursement of assistance under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Adequate funds are released to States to provide central assistance to all the eligible persons. As per reports received from State Governments, about 180 lakh beneficiaries are covered under IGNOAPS.

(c)&(d): Under the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), all persons with severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-59 years and belonging to families living below poverty line are eligible to receive the pension. Persons who are 60 years and above are covered under IGNOAPS. At present, there is no proposal under consideration to relax the prescribed norms.

(e)&(f): For purpose of receiving central assistance under IGNDPS, the person should be suffering from severe or multiple disabilities as defined in `Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 (PWD Act 1995) and the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (National Trust Act 1999) revised from time to time and any other guidelines issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in this regard.