

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2044
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
BROADENING OF NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to broaden the National Social Assistance Programme, National Old Age Pension Scheme and National Family Benefit Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the benefits provided to the beneficiaries under the said schemes?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (D. NAPOLEON)

(a) & (b) The scope of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) has been expanded in the last two years with the following steps taken by the Government. The eligibility criteria for grant of old age pension has been modified in November, 2007 from 'one who is 65 years or higher and a destitute to one who is 65 years or higher and living below the poverty line'. With this modification, National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) has been renamed as Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and the coverage has increased from 87 lakh beneficiaries in 2006-07 to 154 lakh beneficiaries at present.

Two more schemes, namely Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) for BPL widows in the age group of 40-64 years and 'Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme' (IGNDPS) for BPL Persons with severe or multiple disability in the age group of 18-64 years have been introduced under NSAP in February, 2009. However, no modification has been made in respect of National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna Scheme/Thus, NSAP at present comprises of five schemes namely IGNOAPS, IGNWPS, IGNDPS, NFBS and Annapurna.

(c) The central assistance under the three pension schemes namely IGNOAPS, IGNWPS and IGNDPS is Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary and the States have been urged to contribute equal amount. Under NFBS Rs. 10,000 is provided to a BPL family in the event of death of a 'primary bread winner' in the age group of 18-64 years. Under Annapurna Scheme 10 Kgs. of foodgrain are provided to persons who were eligible for old age pension but could not be covered under NOAPS.