

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:490
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012
BENEFICIARIES UNDER PENSION SCHEMES
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total number of beneficiaries under the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, scheme-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the amount of assistance provided to a beneficiary under each of these schemes and the total cost incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, scheme-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the quantum of assistance provided under each of these schemes is being regularly reviewed/scrutinised;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the results of the last such review; (
- (e) whether the Government has considered the option of linking the assistance under these schemes to price index or any other suitable index; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 490 for reply on 10/5/2012

(a): The details of the total number of beneficiaries covered, as reported by the State Governments, under the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) during the last three years, year-wise, scheme-wise and State-wise is as in Annexure- I. Reports regarding coverage of beneficiaries under IGNDPS, IGNWPS, IGNOAPS and NFBS during the current year are yet to be received from the States.

(b): Under IGNOAPS, the amount of central assistance provided to a beneficiary is 200/- per month for those in the age group of 60-79 years and 500/- per month for those aged 80 years and above. Under IGNWPS, the amount of assistance provided to a beneficiary in the age group of 40-59 years, is 200/- per month. Under IGNDPS, the amount of assistance provided to a person in the age group of 18-59 years, with severe or multiple disabilities, is 200/- per month. Under NFBS, 10000/- is provided to a BPL family in case of death of primary breadwinner in the family while in the age group of 18-64 years. These schemes are applicable only to persons belonging to a household living Below Poverty Line (BPL) as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India NSAP was transferred to State plan in 2002-03. Since then, the funds for NSAP are released by Ministry of Finance to States and by Ministry of Home Affairs to Union Territories as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) as a combined allocation for all the schemes under NSAP taken together. The total funds released to States under NSAP and the expenditure reported during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is as in Annexure-II. Reports regarding expenditure incurred during the current year are yet to be received from the States.

(c) & (d): The amount of central assistance provided under the schemes of NSAP is revised from time to time. The old age pension was increased from 75 p.m. to 200 p.m. with effect from 1.4.2006. The old age pension for persons of age 80 years and above was further increased from 200 p.m. to 500 p.m. with effect from 1.4.2011. The amount of assistance under NFBS in the case of natural death was increased from 5000/- to 10000/- in 1998, and brought at par with the case of accidental death. In Budget Speech for the year 2012-13, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced enhancement of central assistance under IGNWPS and IGNDPS from 200/- to 300/- per month per beneficiary and under NFBS from 10000/- to 20000/-.

(e) & (f): No, Sir. There is no proposal to link the assistance under these schemes to price index or any other suitable index, at present.