

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2215  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012  
NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME  
Sivasami Shri C.;Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of a panel set up to study the National Social Assistance Programme consisting of pensions schemes for disadvantaged groups;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with percentage of share between Union Government and State Governments;
- (c) whether the proposed new pension scheme will cover widows, single, divorced women and senior citizens; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked/sanctioned by the Government for the purpose, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA)

(a)(c)&(d): A committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, to make recommendations on the criteria for grant of benefits under various schemes of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). The Committee has suggested in its report for relaxation of certain eligibility criteria and increase in amount of pension to various categories of vulnerable sections under schemes of NSAP. No decision has been taken on the recommendations of the Committee so far.

(b): There is no prescribed ratio of Central and State Government share in the present scheme.