

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3900
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
ELIGIBILITY CONDITION FOR DISABILITY PENSION
Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to redraft the policy of pension for disabled persons under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to change the eligibility conditions for disability pension;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to increase the pension amount for mentally retarded and handicapped persons; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (D. NAPOLEON)

(a) to (f): Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) is a component of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Under IGNDPS, central assistance of Rs. 300 p.m. per beneficiary is provided to persons with severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-79 years and belonging to a household living below poverty line (BPL) as per criteria prescribed by Government of India.

Working Group on `Empowerment of persons with Disabilities` for the formulation of XIth Five Year Plan suggested coverage of all persons with disabilities under IGNDPS and grant of pension @ Rs. 500 p.m. to person with disability and Rs. 1000 p.m. to person with severe and multiple disability.

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 submitted its report in the last week of October 2012. The Committee has made similar recommendation regarding relaxation of disability percentage from 80% to 40% and pension @ Rs. 500/-p.m for person with disability and Rs. 1000/-p.m. for person with severe and multiple disabilities. Committee has also recommended to include specifically autism and cerebral palsy which are mentioned in National Trust Act under IGNDPS. No decision has been taken so far.