

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:117

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

NATIONAL POLICY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Ray Shri Saugata

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

(a) the salient features of the National Policy for the Welfare of Senior Citizens along with the details of the various schemes including provision for separate and specialised health care and security to older persons implemented so far under the Policy, and the funds sanctioned/released and utilised under the said schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT and scheme-wise;

(b) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any study to identify the number of senior citizens living in the urban and rural areas in the country and also to ascertain their economic conditions;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation of funds for programmes being run for older persons and also to set up a National Council for Older Persons;and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (e) in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.117 for answer on 05.03.2013 regarding `National Policy for Senior Citizens` by Shrimati Bhavana Gawali Patil and PROF. Saugata Roy.

(a) The National Policy on Older Persons was announced by the Government in January 1999 which envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons to improve the quality of their lives. The salient features of the Policy are:

to encourage individuals to make provision for their own as well as their spouse`s old age;

to encourage families to take care of their older family members;

to enable and support voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family;

to provide care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people;

to provide adequate healthcare facility to the elderly;

to promote research and training facilities to train geriatric care givers and organizers of services for the elderly; and

to create awareness regarding elderly persons to help them lead productive and independent life.

Some of the important Schemes being implemented for the welfare of senior citizens are as follows:

1. Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)
2. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
3. National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE)

Brief details of the above schemes are given in the Annexure-I. A statement showing State/UT-wise funds sanctioned/released under the said Schemes during each of the last three years and current year is at the Annexure-II

Besides, the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment,

and three Regional Resource and Training Centres (RRTCs) supported under the Scheme of IPOP, are imparting training to service providers, working for the elderly.

(b) and (c) As per Census 2001, State-wise number of senior citizens (60+) living in urban and rural areas is at Annex-III.

(d) and (e) The Working Group for Social Welfare for formulation of XII Five Year Plan, 2012-17 has recommended to the Planning Commission for enhanced allocation of funds for programmes for the welfare of older persons. The National Council of Older Persons (NCOP) was initially constituted in 1999 in pursuance to the provisions of the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999. With a view to have a more definite structure, the Council has been reconstituted and renamed as the National Council for Senior Citizens (NCSrC). A Resolution dated 17.02.2012 to this effect has been published in the Gazette of India on 22.02.2012.