

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1688

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013

PENSION SCHEMES

Biswal Shri Hemanand ;Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar;Chaudhary Shri Jayant;Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Sushil Kumar;Singh Shri Yashvir;Sule Supriya ;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of prevailing centrally sponsored pension schemes for old age people, widows and disabled in rural areas and the structure of such schemes;
- (b) the mechanism to identify the beneficiaries and check irregularities in payment of pension under such schemes;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the amount granted under the above- said schemes and to expand the net to include more people under the schemes;
- (d) if so, the details of the plan, eligibility criteria and the number of people likely to be covered under the pension schemes as a result of expansion State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the Government also proposes to provide dearness relief on yearly basis from next financial year to old age and widow pensioners; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) are a part of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, meant exclusively persons living below poverty line (BPL). The NSAP was transferred to State Plan in 2002-03. Since then, the funds for NSAP are released by the Ministry of Finance to the States and by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Union Territories as Additional Central Assistance (ACA), as a combined allocation for all the schemes under NSAP taken together. Under IGNOAPS a pension of Rs.200/- per month per beneficiary is provided to persons in the age group of 60-79 years Rs.500/-per month per beneficiary to persons of 80 years and above. Under IGNWPS and IGNDPS, Rs.300/- per month per beneficiary is provided as pension to the widows in the age group of 40-79 years and to persons suffering from multiple or severe disability in the age group of 18-79, respectively. The States/UTs have been requested to provide at least an equal contribution to this ACA. Since NSAP is under the State Plan, the implementation of the schemes at ground level is the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory Administration, which includes identification of beneficiary as well as sanction and disbursement of the benefits. The States/UTs are to provide a monthly progress reports which are reviewed in the monthly Nodal Officers` Meeting as well as quarterly Performance Review Committee meetings to ensure effective implementation of the schemes including regularity in payments.

(c)to(f) On the direction of the Union Cabinet, a Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission to prepare a proposal for a Comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme. The Task Force is considering various issues, demands and suggestions relating to pension schemes under NSAP, received from various quarters including those on the quantum of assistance and indexing it to inflation, as well as on eligibility criteria. The Task Force has submitted its report to this Ministry.