

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2429

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

PENSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

- (a) the number of pension schemes available for senior citizens in the country along with the salient features of these schemes;
- (b) whether there are discrepancies in the pension amount under these schemes and demands have been received from various quarters to raise the same;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a) The Ministry of Rural Development is providing old age pension under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) which is a component of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Under IGNOAPS pension is provided by way of an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to beneficiaries belonging to a Below Poverty Line (BPL) household as per criteria prescribed by the Government of India. The rate of ACA is Rs.200/- per month per beneficiary who is in the age group of 60-79 years and Rs.500/- per month per beneficiary of age of 80 years and above. The States/UTs have been urged to contribute at least an equal amount from their own resources to this ACA. The rate of pension under IGNOAPs has been revised from time to time, depending upon the availability of resources.

(b) to (d) A Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to prepare a proposal for a Comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme. The Task Force has considered various issues, demands and suggestions relating to pension schemes under NSAP, received from various quarters and has submitted its report to the Ministry of Rural Development.