

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3977
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013
UNIVERSAL PENSION SCHEME
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce a Universal Pension Scheme for the old persons in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the major provisions of the said scheme;
- (c) whether the NRLM scheme of the ministry provides for assistance/pension to the disabled;
- (d) if so, the details of the quantum of assistance being provided to the disabled under the scheme;
- (e) whether there is a proposal to cover old age persons along with the disabled under the said scheme;
- (f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (g) whether the ministry has received any representation from various organizations for implementing the said Universal Pension Scheme; and
- (h) if so, the action taken by the Ministry in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (h): 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 considered various issues, demands and suggestions relating to pension schemes under NSAP, received from various quarters including universalisation of pensions. The Task Force has submitted its report to this Ministry. No pension is provided under the NRLM Scheme. However, vulnerable sections of society are provided with bank credit linked subsidy of which 3% of coverage is for persons with disability.