

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4039  
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013  
NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME  
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government had set up a Task Force to suggest upward revision and greater inclusion in all types of pension schemes under the National Social Assistance Programme;
- (b) if so, whether the Task Force has submitted its report with recommendations;
- (c) if so, the details of the recommendations of the said Task Force;
- (d) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the said recommendations are likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

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

(a)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 considered all the issues, demands and suggestions relating to pensions received from various quarters. The Task Force has submitted its Report to the Ministry. The recommendations of the Task Force relate mainly to eligibility criteria, quantum of assistance, processes relating to identification, sanction and disbursement, and strengthening the administrative structure. The recommendations of Task Force are under examination.