

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1232

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013

PENSION SCHEMES

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pension schemes available for the senior citizens in the country and the salient features of these schemes;
- (b) whether there is a difference in the pension amount under these schemes and a demand has been made from various quarters to increase the said amount;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether all the State Governments across the country are releasing pension of senior citizens, widows and differently abled persons in time;
- (e) if not, the States in which there is an inordinate delay in releasing pension to these categories of the people; and
- (f) the reasons for such inordinate delay in releasing pension to these categories of the people and the measures being taken by the Union Government for timely release of the pension to these persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) The Ministry of Rural Development implements three pension schemes under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) viz., Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) for persons who belong to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. As per the eligibility criteria, each of the above mentioned pension schemes are available for senior citizens who fulfil the eligibility criteria laid down by the Government of India. The salient features of these schemes are enclosed as Annexure.

(b) & (c) There is difference in the pension amount under these schemes. Presently under IGNOAPS the pension amount for the beneficiary in the age group of 60-79 years is Rs.200/- per month whereas in the other two pension schemes viz., Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) the pension amount for the beneficiary in the age group of 60-79 years is Rs.300/- per month

There have been demands from States, UTs as well as Civil Service Organisations for enhancing the pension amount.

(d) & (e) State Governments / UT Administrations receive funds in the Consolidated Fund of the State / UT for the schemes of NSAP as Additional Central Assistance (ACA). The funds received in the Consolidated Fund of the State / UT are transferred to the Nodal Department implementing the schemes of NSAP. The Nodal Department on receipt of the fund disburses pension to beneficiaries through field offices. The pensions are disbursed once the funds flow to the disbursing offices.

(f) Although the Ministry has not received any complaint regarding inordinate delay in releasing the pension, Ministry of Rural Development has developed a software viz., NSAP-MIS to enable fund flow in an efficient manner. Bank accounts of the beneficiaries are brought under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) so that the pension is directly transferred into the accounts of the beneficiaries by the disbursing offices.

ANNEXURE

Salient Features of the Pension Schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

I. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): Under the scheme, assistance is provided to person of 60 years and above and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. Central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month is provided to person in the age group of 60-79 years and Rs. 500/- per month to persons of 80 years and above.

II. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): Under the scheme Central assistance @ Rs. 300/- per month is provided to widows in the age-group of 40-79 years and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary would be shifted to IGNOAPS for getting pension of Rs. 500/- per month.

III. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS): Under the scheme Central assistance @ Rs. 300/- per month is provided to persons aged 18-79 years with severe or multiple disabilities and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary would be shifted to IGNOAPS for getting pension of Rs. 500/- per month.

States/UTs have been urged to make at least an equal contribution from their own resources under all three pension schemes.