

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1999

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

SOCIAL SECURITY TO ELDERLY PERSONS .

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil
Bhaskarrao;Bhujbal Shri Sameer ;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Dhanaplan Shri K. P.;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Gaikwad Shri Eknath
Mahadeo;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Tanwar Shri Ashok;Wankhede
Shri Subhash Bapurao;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enact an appropriate legislation/frame a policy to ensure that senior citizens in the country have access to social security, assistance and welfare services including payment of pension, housing and health care;
- (b) if so, the details and salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to make it mandatory for spending a minimum of corporate social responsibility fund on the welfare of elderly persons and effect a tenfold hike on the old age pension;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government for the betterment of elderly persons in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) and (b) : The Government has enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens

(MWPSC) Act, 2007 in December 2007. The Act, inter-alia, makes maintenance of parents and senior citizens by children and relatives obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals; provides for revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of negligence by children/relatives; establishment of old age homes for indigent senior citizens; penal provisions for abandonment of senior citizens; medical facilities for senior citizens; and protection of life and property of senior citizens.

The National Policy on Older Persons was announced by the Government in January 1999 which envisages

State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons to improve the quality of their lives.

(c) and (d) : As per the information provided by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 deals with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The Scheduled VII of the Act lists the various activities which may be included by the Companies in their CSR policies. Section 135 of the act has not yet come into force and as such the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has no information on the expenditure incurred on CSR activities. The Ministry of Rural Development is administering the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under which Central assistance is given towards pension @ Rs.200/- per month to persons above 60 year and @ Rs.500/- per month to persons above 80 years belonging to a household below poverty line.

(e) : The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) with an objective to improve the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and recreation opportunities etc. The Ministry of Rural Development is administering the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under which pension/ financial assistance is provided to persons belonging to household living below poverty line (BPL).

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the National Programme for Health Care for Elderly

(NPHCE) since 2010-11. The basic aim of the NPHCE programme is to provide separate and specialized comprehensive health care to the senior citizens at various levels of State health care delivery system including outreach services.