

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:718
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013
POLICY ON SENIOR CITIZENS
Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

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

(a) the salient features of the National Policy for the Welfare of Senior Citizens along with the details of the various schemes including provision for separate and specialized healthcare and security to older persons implemented so far under the Policy and the funds sanctioned/released and utilized under the said schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any study to identify the number of senior citizens living in the urban and rural areas in the country and also to ascertain their economic conditions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) 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. The salient features of the Policy are:

to encourage individuals to make provision for their own as well as their spouse's old age;

to encourage families to take care of their older family members;

to enable and support voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family;

to provide care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people;

to provide adequate healthcare facility to the elderly;

to promote research and training facilities to train geriatric care givers and organizers of services for the elderly; and

to create awareness regarding elderly persons to help them lead productive and independent live.

Some of the important Schemes being implemented for the welfare of senior citizens are as follows:

1. Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)
2. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
3. National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE)

Brief details of the above schemes are given in the Annexure-I. A statement showing State/UT- wise funds sanctioned/released under the said Schemes during each of the last three years and current year is at the Annexure-II

Besides, the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and four Regional Resource and Training Centres (RRTC's) supported under the Scheme of IPOP, are imparting training to service providers, working for the elderly.

(b) and (c) As per Census 2011, State-wise number of senior citizens (60+) living in urban and rural areas is at Annex-III.