

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2490  
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014  
NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME  
Bansal Shri Pawan Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government had constituted a Task Force to prepare a proposal for a comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the terms of reference;
- (c) whether the Task Force has since submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHANDKATARIA)

(a) to (e) A Task Force was 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 the Task Force have been examined in detail by the Ministry of Rural Development and accepted with some modifications. The action has been initiated to take the approval of the Competent Authority.