

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4044
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
PENSION UNDER SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide pension to old aged farmers, workers and widows under the social welfare schemes so as to relieve them from mental agony in case of being deserted by their family members;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any complaints have been received from retired Government employees regarding mental torture and desertion by their family members;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b) The Government administers a programme called National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) under which central assistance is provided to old age, widow and disabled persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) household. The eligibility criteria and the amount of assistance under different schemes of NSAP administered by the Ministry of Rural Development is enclosed as Annexure.

(c) to (e) The grievances/ complaints received from retired Government employees, including complaints, if any, regarding mental torture and desertion by their family members which require action/remedial measures by State Governments are forwarded to them.

However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 in December, 2007 which, inter-alia, makes maintenance of parents/senior citizens by children/relatives obligatory and justifiable through Tribunals; provides for revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of negligence by children/relatives; penal provision for abandonment of senior citizen; medical facilities for senior citizens; and protection of life and property of senior citizen. The Act had to be brought into force by individual state Governments. By now, all States and Union Territories barring Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir have done so. It is not applicable to the State of Jammu & Kashmir, while Himachal Pradesh has its own Act for senior citizens.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4044.

DIFFERENT SCHEMES OF NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP) ADMINISTERED BY MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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. States have been recommended to make at least an equal contribution from their own resources.

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. States have been recommended to make at least an equal contribution from their own resources

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 and multiple disabilities and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. States have been recommended to make at least an equal contribution from their own resources

IV. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): Under the scheme a BPL household is entitled to lump sum amount of money on the death of primary breadwinner aged between 18 and 59 years. The amount of assistance is Rs. 20,000/-. States have been recommended to make at least an equal contribution from their own resources

V. Annapurna: Under the scheme, 10 kg of food grains per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible, are not receiving old age pension.