

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:541

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015

NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Central assistance provided to the States including West Bengal under the National Social Assistance Programme during the last three years and the current year, State /UT and year- wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to withdraw the present age bar and to enhance minimum monthly amount of pension earmarked for a disabled person under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS);
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of beneficiaries under IGNDPS, State /UT wise; and
- (e) the steps taken /proposed to be taken by the Government to make IGNDPS more inclusive?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

- (a) The details of the Central assistance provided to the States including West Bengal under the National Social Assistance Programme during the last three years and current year, State /UT and year - wise are at Annexure-I.
- (b) & (c): A Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development under the Chairmanship of the then Member, Planning Commission, has recommended to remove the age bar for disability pensions and have also recommended increasing the pension amount for disability pension. The matter is under consideration of the competent authority in Government.
- (d): Details of number of beneficiaries under IGNDPS for the last three years and current year are at Annexure-II
- (e) : NSAP is focused on the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households . The entire beneficiaries constitute the most vulnerable sections of the society. As such it is already a very inclusive scheme.