

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2231
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
OLD AGE HOMES FOR DESTITUTES
Chowdhary Shri Pankaj

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

- (a) the total number of old age people in the country and the number of destitutes among them;
- (b) whether the Government provides assistance to the States for keeping the destitute old age people in old age homes in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to set up old age homes for large number of destitute old age people in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a): As per census 2011, the population of Senior Citizens in the country is 10.38 crores. However, no authentic data is available with the Ministry on the number of destitute among them.

(b) to (d): This Ministry is implementing the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons(IPOP) under which financial assistance is provided to Panchayati Raj Institutions/local bodies, Non Governmental Organisations, Institutions or organisations set up by the government as auto- nomous/subordinate bodies etc. and in exceptional cases to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, including inter-alia for running and maintenance of Old Age homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units etc. Under this Scheme this Ministry is providing financial assistance to Non Governmental Organisations for running/maintaining 154 Old Age Homes spread in states all over the country.

Besides, Section 19 of the Maintenance & Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 provide that the State Government may establish and maintain such number of old age homes at accessible places, as it may deem necessary, in a phased manner, beginning with at least one in each district to accommodate in such homes a minimum of one hundred fifty senior citizens who are indigent.