

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4777
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
LAW FOR WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS
Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognisance of the cases of negligence of old aged parents by their children;
- (b) whether the laws enacted for ensuring care of the senior citizens are being not complied with;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for making the said laws more stringent;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the nature of existing laws meant for ensuring care of parents/senior citizens?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) to (e): Concerned with the instances of neglect of old age parents by their children, the Government had 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 provisions for abandonment of senior citizens; medical facilities for senior citizens; and protection of life and property of senior citizens.

So far, the Act has been notified by all States and UTs. However, the Act is not applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh has its own Act for Senior Citizens. Under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 so far, 24 States and 6 Union Territories have established Appellate Tribunals.

Further, the Ministry has been making efforts by persuading the States/UTs from time to time to effectively implement the Act in letter and spirit so that the senior citizens are benefited in their respective States/UTs. Apart from pursuing the matter through written communication, the issue has been raised at various forums including, inter-alia, during the Regional Conferences of Secretaries of Social Welfare Departments, during visit of the nodal officers to their respective States etc. As the Act has been in force for a relatively short time, at present, there is no proposal for any amendment therein.