

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4116

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2014

OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes being implemented by the Government to provide benefits of old age pension scheme to the workers/labourers engaged in unorganised sectors namely road/street vendors and domestic sector on the lines of labourers engaged in organised sector;
- (b) whether the Government has decided to provide pension to all elderly, disabled and widows irrespective of their financial conditions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) The Ministry of Rural Development is concerned with Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) which is a part of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (NSAP), Central assistance is provided to persons of 60 years and above and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by the Government of India. Any BPL household whether worker or labourer, on fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed by the Government of India can be considered for getting assistance under NSAP.

(b) to (e): In so far as the Ministry of Rural Development is concerned, at present, there is no proposal to provide pension to all elderly, disabled and widows irrespective of their financial conditions. Under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) Central assistance is provided to the old aged, widows and disabled household living Below Poverty Line (BPL) on fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed by the Government of India. Salient features and eligibility criteria for pension schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) are enclosed at Annexure.

A Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission, considered all the issues, demands and suggestions relating to social assistance/security, received from various quarters and submitted its report in March, 2013, inter-alia, recommending expanding the scope of coverage and increasing the quantum of pension. Further action has been initiated to process the recommendations of the Task Force.

ANNEXURE

Salient Features and eligibility criteria of the Pension Schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

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.

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. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary would be shifted to IGNOAPS for getting pension of Rs. 500/- per month.

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 or multiple disabilities and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary would be shifted to IGNOAPS for getting pension of Rs. 500/- per month.