

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:835

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017

Welfare Schemes for Senior Citizens

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

- (a) the population of senior citizens in absolute and percentage terms in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred under various welfare schemes for senior citizens during the last three years and the current year, Scheme-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has not spent any amount on awareness generation for maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens, setting up of national commission for senior citizens, setting up of helpline for senior citizens at district level or at national level, creation of national trust for aged and implementation of national policy for senior citizens in the Financial Year 2016-17;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a): Data regarding the population of Senior citizens in absolute and percentage terms in the country State-wise as per Census 2011 and as compiled from the data available on the website of Registrar General of India (<http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/C-series/C-14.html>) is at Annexure-I .

(b)The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) under which grants-in-aid are given for running and maintenance of, inter-alia, Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units, Multi Facility Care Centre for Older Widows etc. The main objective of the Scheme is to improve the quality of life of Older Persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities etc. Implementing agencies eligible for assistance under the Scheme are Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local Bodies, Non-Governmental Voluntary Organizations, Institutions or Organizations set up by Government as autonomous/subordinate bodies, Government Recognized Educational Institutions, Charitable Hospitals/Nursing Homes, and Recognized Youth Organizations such as Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and in exceptional cases the State Governments/UT administrations. The data regarding funds released under the Scheme of IPOP during 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (upto 25.01.2017) is given below:-

Year Allocation (Rs.in crores) Release(Rs. in crores)

2016-17(upto 25.01.2017) 37.00 29.36

2015-16 55.00 27.58

2014-15 50.00 14.99

2013-14 50.00 15.56

As per information received from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, that Ministry had launched the "National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly" (NPHCE) during 2010-11 to address various health related problems of elderly people. The major objectives of the NPHCE are establishment of Department of Geriatric in identified Medical Institutions as Regional Geriatric Centres for different regions of the country and to provide dedicated health facilities in District Hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub-Centres (SCs) levels through State Health Society. Following facilities are being provided under the Programme:

• Geriatric OPD, 30 bedded Geriatric ward for in-patient care, etc at Regional Geriatric Centres.

• Geriatric OPD and 10 bedded Geriatric Ward at District Hospitals.

• Bi-weekly Geriatric Clinic at Community Health Centres (CHCs)

• Weekly Geriatric Clinic at Primary Health Centre (PHCs).

• Provision of Aids and Appliances at Sub-centres

In addition, that Ministry is supporting the development of two National Centres of Ageing-one in AIIMS, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi and another in Madras Medical College, Chennai under tertiary component of the programme. The details of the fund released and utilized in different States/UTs during the last three years and current year, are at Annexure-II and Annexure -III.

As per information received from Ministry of Rural Development Old Age Pension is provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), the eligible age for IGNOAPS is 60 years. The pension is Rs. 200 p.m. for persons between 60-79 years and belonging to below poverty line (BPL) household and as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India.

After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary starts getting a pension of Rs. 500/- per month. The funds released to States/UTs under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), is as under:-

Year Allocation/Release(Rs. in crores)

2016-17(as on date) 4751.61

2015-16 5562.69

2014-15 4180.98

(c) & (d) As per the recommendations of meeting of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) in the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment the following Schemes were merged with the different components of the already existing Scheme of IPOP:-

i) Awareness Generation for the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens" Act, 2007.

ii) Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at National Level

iii) Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at District Level

iv) Scheme for implementation of the New National Policy on Senior Citizens;

The Scheme of "Setting up of National Trust for the Aged" was dropped, in view of the proposal for setting up of Senior Citizens Welfare Fund and the Scheme of "Setting up of National Commission for Senior Citizens" was dropped in view of the proposal for strengthening of the existing National Council of Senior Citizens. Therefore, the question of incurring any expenditure on the above Schemes in 2016-17 does not arise.

(e) The existing National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment of the Government to ensure the well being of the older persons. Keeping in view the changing demographic pattern, socio-economic needs of the senior citizens, social value system and advancement in the field of science and technology over the last decade, a new National Policy for Senior Citizens is under finalization to replace the NPOP-1999.