

Title: Need to distribute foodgrains under Annapurna Scheme to the destitute and disabled persons – laid

SHRI R.S. PATIL (BAGALKOT) : Last year, the Government of India was magnanimous in announcing the Annapurana Scheme to supply 10 kg. rice to the people who are not covered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme. The Union Ministry of Rural Development took pride in launching this scheme one year ago, i.e. from 1.4.2000.

The irony of the whole Scheme of Annapurna is that in most of the States the beneficiaries have not been identified. The district administration should be held responsible if they say that they cannot identify people for this Scheme because it is their duty to identify the persons and to give pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme. Apparently, this seems to be a populist Scheme but unfortunately and ultimately the Scheme is bound to die its natural death.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development to take an immediate decision to distribute foodgrains under Annapurana Scheme to the destitute and disabled persons.