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Title: Need to resolve the grievances of senior citizens as demanded by All India Senior Citizens Confederation.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): Sir, we have around nine per cent senior citizens in India. Yesterday, we saw senior citizens agitating on the streets in various States across the country demanding various rights. Senior citizens have contributed a lot for us. They have laid foundation for the future of India and now they are in a very vulnerable position. They are very fragile and weak. So, they want certain considerations and protection. I am happy that the Government of India is also looking into all these things and they have formed a national policy for older persons. It has also enacted a law called the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. The responsibility of implementing it is given to States.

Now, the senior citizens feel that this policy is not being properly implemented at the ground level in the States. They have various demands. For instance, they want that the Old Age Pension Scheme should be increased to Rs.1000. They want free medical treatment for all the senior citizens. They want the courts to decide very quickly all their pending cases. They want that some priority should be given to them. They also want the Tribunal to be set up as per the Act to look into all their problems as per the Maintenance and Welfare Act which was enacted in 2007. Apart from this, they have various other demands which they have given to the Government. Yesterday, they were on the streets in the entire length and breadth of the country.

So, I want the Government to look into all these things. Here also we have senior Members. We draw a lot of inspiration from them. We get the benefit of the experience and advice of the senior Members of the House.

Similarly, juniors respect them and take their blessings. So, we all want the blessings of our elders and we need to make efforts to address their problems. We do not want them to be on the streets and instead we want them to lead a peaceful and respectable life. The Government should look into their demands and solve them as quickly as possible.