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Title: Regarding the plight of elders in India.

श्रीमती हेमामालिनी (मथुरा) : अध्यक्ष जी, आपने मुझे समय दिया, इसके लिए बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद। मेरा विषय है - The plight of elders in India. हमारे देश में अलग-अलग वर्ग के लोगों के लिए बहुत सारी स्कीम्स हैं लेकिन बुजुर्गों के लिए इतना नहीं है।

According to a study, 24 per cent of senior citizens encounter physical abuse mostly by their kin. A staggering 9 per cent of the India's senior citizens or nine crore still work to survive and three crore live alone without any support and five crore sleep hungry. There are nearly 10 crore elderly persons in India and this figure is likely to triple by 2050. Despite this not much attention has been given to the needs and care of the elderly. There are no dependable community support system, geriatric care or Government welfare schemes except the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme and Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme. There is no proper social security for India's elderly. Budgets bring only relief to senior tax payers and that is where the thinking stops. The oldest, the old are the worst affected as no health insurance schemes are willing to cover this age group. Physical and economic vulnerability is the highest at this age as are dependency levels. In such a bleak scenario where and whom does a senior citizen turn up for help? The issue of poverty poses additional challenges when it comes to older persons particularly those in rural, and in far flung areas with inadequate access to healthcare facilities.

I, therefore, urge the Government to devise a scheme for free treatment, following by healthcare, financial aid and pension scheme for their requirement. I have also a suggestion that Rs.5, Rs.10, Rs.15 and Rs.25 may be set aside from income-tax payers according to their slabs to build a corpus fund for their welfare. Thank you so much.

HON. SPEAKER:

Kumari Shobha Karandlaje,

Shri P.P.Chaudhary,

Shri Ashwini Kumar Chaubey,

Shri Arvind Sawant,

Shri Shrirang Appa Bame,

Shrimati Rama Devi,

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and

Adv. Joice George are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Hemamalini.