

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1793

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2018

Welfare of Elderly

RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (d) : The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly enacted the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservation) Act, 2000 categorising 59 Scheduled Castes ( SCs) of the State into A,B,C,D groups and allotted 15% reservation meant for SCs in the State to them 1%,7%, 6% and 1% respectively. The Supreme Court in the case of E.V.Chinnaiah Vs. Andhra Pradesh and Ors. declared the said Act as ultra vires the Constitution.

A National Commission to examine the issue of Sub- categorisation of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh (NCSCSC) had been set up in the year 2006-07. The NCSCSC in its report submitted on 01.05.2008 had recommended amendment of Article 341 of the Constitution to provide for sub-categorisation and de-sub-categorisation of SCs. No decision has been taken in the matter as the Government has decided to elicit views of the major stake holders viz. the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on the recommendation of the NCSCSC. In view of judgment of Apex Court in aforesaid case, States cannot sub-categories the Scheduled Castes.

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

**ANSWER**

## MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a)& (b): Yes Madam. As per census, 2011 more than 70% elderly are living in the rural hinterland. The details are at Annexure-I.

(c) to (e): There is no scheme in this Ministry that is specifically aimed at the elderly living in the rural areas. However, this Ministry is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) since 1992 with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental/Voluntary Organisations, Panchayati Raj Institutions etc. for running and maintenance of projects like Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, etc. The Scheme of IPOP is for the benefits of senior citizens in both rural and urban areas.

Details of funds released under IPOP during the last 3 years are at Annexure-II.

Under the scheme of IPOP, grant in aid is released to NGOs on demand basis, after recommendation by the State Government and receipt of requisite documents, including Utilisation Certificates.

Further, this Ministry is also implementing the scheme of 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)' with an objective to provide senior citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from age related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. Under the Scheme, assisted living devices such as walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/ crutches, tripods/ quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures, spectacles are provided free of cost to the beneficiary senior citizens. The Scheme is being implemented by the "Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)", a Public Sector Undertaking under this Ministry. The devices are distributed in the camp mode to the identified beneficiaries. The Scheme is being funded from Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund (SCWF). An Amount of Rs. 16 Cr. was released to ALIMCO of which Rs. 14.30 Cr have been utilised. The National launch of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana was held at Nellore (A.P.) on 1st April, 2017. As on date, 21 Distribution Camps have been organized at district level distributing 58,325 aids and assistive devices to 31,304 Senior Citizens of rural and urban areas.

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of Rural Development. NSAP is a social security/social welfare programme applicable to old aged, widows, disabled persons and bereaved families on death of primary bread winner, belonging to below poverty line household only. Old Age Pension is provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) to the BPL persons of age of 60 years or more. Central assistance of Rs200/- per month is provided to the persons of 60-79 years of age and Rs.500/- per month to the persons of age of 80 years or more. Details of funds released under IGNOAPS during last three years as under:-

Scheme 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17

IGNOAPS (Rs in crore). 4180.985562.695900.91

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had launched "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 care facilities for elderly in District Hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub-Centres (SCs) 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 Applications at Sub-centres.

So far, 520 districts of 35 States/UTs have been approved to carry out the activities up to district level.

NPHCE is being covered under the funds allocated for NCD Flexible pool within umbrella of National Health Mission (NHM) which includes 04 other programmes i.e. National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI), National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, CVD and Stroke (NPCDCS), National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) & National Programme for Tobacco Control (NPTC). Allocation and Utilization of funds for NCD flexible during last three years, are as follows:

Year	Allocation (NCD Flexible Pool)	Releases (NCD Flexible Pool)	Utilization (NPHCE)
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Rs. in Crore

2015-	16527.33379	0028.16	
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2016-	17527.36504	7135.47	
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2017-	18925.00653	34*16.50*	
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\*As on date