

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1936
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006
WELFARE SAFETY OF SENIOR CITIZENS
Oram Shri Jual;Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any policy for the welfare/safety of senior citizens of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to implement the same;
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated annually for the welfare of senior citizens;
- (d) whether the Government has not yet implemented the senior citizen policy; and
- (e) if so, the action taken against all such departments?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIS. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b): The Government in 1999 had announced the National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP) wherein all aspects of life concerning the aged have been addressed. The National Policy envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse. Exploitation and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives. The Policy promotes active and productive ageing and recognizes the need for affirmative action to ensure an active, creative, productive and satisfying life, encourages families to take care of older family members, supports voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family; to provide care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people, to provide health care facilities; to promote research and training on ageing related issues and to train geriatric care givers and organizers of services for the elderly; and to create awareness in society on ageing related issues with a view to promoting inclusion of the senior citizens in the mainstream national life;

In pursuance of the announcement of the National Policy, the Government has set up a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) headed by the Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment. Its primary function is to advise and aid the Government on policies and programmes for older persons and also to provide the feedback to the Government on implementation of the National Policy. The NCOP is the highest body to advise and coordinate with the Government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the welfare of the aged. The council also works as a nodal point at the national level for redressing the grievances of the older persons and to represent their collective opinion to the Government of India. The NCOP's members are experienced and well-known individuals representing NGOs, citizen's group, retired person's associations and from the field of law, social welfare and security, research, and medicine.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has also been set up for taking action on the recommendations of NCOP. The Inter-Ministerial Committee comprises representatives of twenty-two Ministries/Departments.

(c): The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment supports programmes for the welfare of the elderly through financial assistance to Non Governmental Organisations under the following two schemes:

(i) The Scheme of 'Integrated Programme for Older Persons', through which financial assistance up to 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centers, mobile medicare units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons. The budgetary allocation for the year 2006-07 under the Scheme has been increased substantially to Rs. 28 crore. Presently, 444 NGOs are being supported to run 338 Old Age Homes, 241 Day Care Centers and 45 Mobile Medicare Units.

(ii) The Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups under which funds are provided for construction of old age homes. The budgetary allocation for this Non-Plan Scheme is Rs. 1 crore.

(d) & (e): The Government is taking all possible steps for effective implementation of the National Policy on Older Persons. All concerned Ministries/Departments are being requested to contribute in this mammoth task.