

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:647

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2015

Pension for Old Age and Handicapped

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps in the direction of devising national pension policy for old aged, handicaps, destitutes etc. and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the difference in the amount of pension given under old, widow, handicapped and other schemes in various States;
- (c) If so, the State-wise details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to implement a uniform minimum pension scheme in all the States for pension holders and the details of the amount spent for this purpose during the last three years; and
- (e) If so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) : In so far as Ministry of Rural Development is concerned, at present there is no proposal for devising national pension policy for old aged, handicapped, destitutes etc. Ministry of Rural Development is administering National Social Assistance programme(NSAP) under which pension / Central assistance is provided to the old aged , widows and disabled persons belonging to the households living Below Poverty Line (BPL) on fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed by the Government of India. These schemes are for rural as well as for urban areas.

However, Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services have recently launched Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to address the longevity risks among the workers especially in the unorganised sector for all bank account holders in the age group of 18-40 years where the subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension at the age of 60 years. The details are at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir, the Government is aware of the difference in the amount of pension given under Old, Widow, Handicapped and other schemes in various states. NSAP is a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme and State Governments are urged to contribute at least an equal amount from their own resources, however, States/UTs are contributing different amounts from their own resources and hence there is difference in the amount of pension given in each State/UT. The State wise details indicating total assistance provided by Central and State Governments is at Annexure II.

(d) & (e): Under NSAP, the Government provides uniform financial assistance to all the States/UTs. However, States/UTs are requested to contribute an equal amount of pension/ assistance from their own resources, which is not mandatory. This has resulted in variation in the amount of pension paid to the beneficiaries by each State. A Statement indicating the amount released to the States /UTs under NSAP during the last three years is at Annexure-III.
