

**Title: Need to solve the problems faced by senior citizens regarding Varishth Pension Yojana and air travel concessions.**

**SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR** : Sir, thank you for permitting me to raise a couple of very important issues. One is regarding the senior citizens. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR** : Various federations, organisations, and associations of the senior citizens have represented their grievances to the Government regarding *Varishth Pension Yojana* to convert it into a single policy for husband and wife jointly on either or survivor basis, and also declaring 60 years and above for senior citizens to be eligible for the benefits under Income Tax Act and for Air Travel concessions instead of 65 years as per present prevailing rules. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR** : Similarly, increase a bit in interest rate on savings to 2 per cent instead of prevailing half a per cent. The unreasonable conditions imposed by Indian Airlines and Jet Airways, for example, one way journey not permitted, minimum stay of seven days at destination and confirmed ticket to be purchased at least seven days prior to departure, may be removed.

I, therefore, urge the Government to consider the matter at the earliest and to take necessary actions to resolve the problems of senior citizens.