

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †751
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2017**

SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS

**†751. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:**

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

- (a) the number of old age homes functioning in various States of the country;
- (b) the details of schemes being run by Government for the welfare of senior citizens;
- (c) the details of funds released to States for these schemes during the last three years, Scheme-wise and State-wise; and
- (d) the amount utilised by the States out of the funds released and whether Government has received requests from the States for granting more funds and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) under which grants-in-aid are given for running and maintenance of *inter alia*, Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units, Multi Facility Care Centre for Older Widows etc. The main objective of the Scheme is to improve the quality of life of Older Persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities etc. Implementing agencies eligible for assistance under the Scheme are Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local Bodies, Non-Governmental Voluntary Organizations, etc. Funds under the Scheme of IPOP are not released to the States, but released to the implementing agencies like NGOs/ VOs, etc. Number of Old Age Homes receiving Grant in Aid under IPOP Scheme, State wise, for the last three years is at **Annexure I**. Statement showing the funds released to the implementing agencies, State-wise is at **Annexure II**.

This Ministry is also implementing a Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY), which was announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Budget Speech of 2015-16. This is a Central Sector Scheme funded from Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund. Under the Scheme of RVY, aids and assistive living devices are provided to senior citizens belonging to BPL category who suffer from age related disabilities such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and loco-motor disabilities. The aids and assistive devices *viz.* walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/crutches, tripods/quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures and

spectacles are provided to eligible beneficiaries. The Scheme is being implemented by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) which is a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The estimated outlay of the Scheme is Rs. 483.6 Cr. upto 2019-20. The Scheme will be implemented in 260 districts and benefit 5,20,000 beneficiaries upto 2019-20. The National launch of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana was held at Nellore (A.P.) on 1st April, 2017.

As information received from the Ministry of Rural Development, NSAP is a social assistance programme for poor households- for the aged, widows, disabled and in the case of death of the breadwinner, thereby aiming at ensuring minimum national standards in addition to the benefits that the States are providing or might provide in future. The intention in providing hundred per cent central assistance is to ensure that social protection to the beneficiaries is available throughout the country. States are free to add on and expand their coverage.

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): Under the scheme, assistance is provided to person of 60 years and above and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. Central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month is provided to person in the age group of 60-79 years and Rs. 500/- per month to persons of 80 years and above.

Funds under the schemes of NSAP are released on the basis of reports submitted by States/UTs. The details of funds released to States and funds utilized is as **Annexure-III**.

As information provided by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services, two Schemes were run by them for welfare of senior citizens, which are as under:-

I. Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana(VPBY): The Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana(VPBY) 2003 launched on 14th July, 2003 and Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana(VPBY) 2014 launched on 14 August, 2014 are social security schemes for Senior Citizens intended to give an assured minimum pension to them based on a guaranteed minimum return on the subscription amount. The Pension is envisaged until death from the date of subscription or upto 15 years whichever is earlier with payback of the subscription amount on death of the subscriber to the nominee or after 15 years to the subscriber on surrender of policy. These Schemes are implemented through Life Insurance Corporation(LIC) of India, which is paid the difference between the actual yield earned by LIC on the funds invested under the scheme and the assured return of 9% committed by the Government. Both the schemes VPBY 2003 and VPBY 2014 are closed for future subscriptions. However, policies sold during the currency of policy are being serviced as per the commitment of guaranteed 9% return announced by the Government under the schemes. As on 31.03.2017, a total of number of 2,74,885 beneficiaries and 3,11,981 beneficiaries are being benefited under VPBY 2003 and VPBY 2014 respectively.

II. Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana(PNVVY): To protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to the uncertain market conditions, as also to provide social security during old age, government launched a simplified scheme of assured pension of 8% called the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana

