

- (a) the salient features of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme;
- (b) the number of senior citizens covered under the scheme in Tamil Nadu with details of men and women and urban and rural area-wise, separately; and
- (c) the role of the State Government in implementing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Salient features of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) are as follows:

(i) IGNOAPS was launched on 19th November 2007 by modifying eligibility criteria for old age pension under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) from one 'who is 65 years or higher and a destitute' to one 'who is 65 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India'.

(ii) Under IGNOAPS Central assistance of Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary is provided and State Governments have been urged to contribute equally so that a pensioner could get at least Rs. 400/- per month.

(iii) Universal coverage of all eligible persons is envisaged under IGNOAPS. The coverage has since increased to 163 lakh from 87 lakh under NOAPS.

(iv) Pension under NSAP is to be disbursed through Bank/Post Office Accounts of beneficiaries, wherever feasible.

(b) As per reports available, the number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme in Tamil Nadu with details of men and women and urban and rural area-wise separately are as under:

Men	Women	Rural	Urban	Total
339944	578436	627206	291174	918380

(c) The responsibility of implementation of IGNOAPS is with the State Governments. Identification of beneficiaries, sanction of pension and disbursement of pension under IGNOAPS is done by the respective State Government. Funds are released to the States as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) by the Ministry of Finance.

Rural drinking water schemes

4297. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism to monitor the rural drinking water schemes;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what have been the recommendations made by various committees for improving such schemes during the last three years;
- (d) whether any complaints have been received from the beneficiaries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Standing Committee of Parliament on Rural Development has made various recommendations for improving the scheme which *inter-alia*, includes strengthening of online information system for effective monitoring, steps for prevention of slippage, tackling water quality problems, training for water quality monitoring and surveillance, placing information in public domain, coverage of habitations less than 20 households or 100 population also, covering not-covered habitations on priority, incentive mechanisms, etc.

(d) and (e) Department is not aware of receipt of any complaints from the beneficiaries.

Stoppage of MNREGS work in Maharashtra

4298. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that all works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) have stopped in Maharashtra;
- (b) the reasons for the stoppage of the MNREGS abruptly in the State; and
- (c) the effect on the workers who had registered themselves for obtaining work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.