

(c) The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pensions Scheme (IGNOAPS) is one of the components of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Funds for NSAP are released as Additional Central Assistance by the Ministry of Finance to States and by Ministry of Home Affairs to Union Territories in combined manner for all the schemes under NSAP. Hence, no separate releases are made for IGNOAPS. Expenditure under NSAP and number, of beneficiaries reported by States under IGNOAPS during the last five years are given as under:

Year	Expenditure reported under NSAP (Rs. In lakh)	Beneficiaries covered under IGNOAPS
2006-07	198049.94	8708837
2007-08	311098.71	11514026
2008-09	387531.16	15483836
2009-10	471883.22	16333578
2010-11	548059.54	17059756

Set back to Air India not joining Star Alliance

3974. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is set back to Air India as it misses joining Star Alliance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to correct the situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) By deferment of Air India's entry into Star Alliance, benefits that might have been gained from Star Alliance brand, publicity and Frequent Flyer Programme (FFP) agreements with other Star carriers stand to get diminished.

(c) Air India will concentrate on strengthening its brand and image and will also pursue code share with other carriers.

National policy for welfare of senior citizens

3975. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the features of National Policy for Welfare of Senior Citizens;
- (b) the details of various schemes implemented for the welfare of senior citizens under the National Policy in Assam;
- (c) the details of various concessions being provided to senior citizens by the Central Government and Assam Government; and
- (d) the details of financial assistance given for old age homes during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999 envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons to improve the quality of their lives.

(b) to (d) Some of the welfare schemes for senior citizens being implemented by the Government of Assam are as follows:

- (i) Health Care Scheme for the Senior Citizens
- (ii) Old Age Pension Scheme
- (iii) Destitute Home for Older Persons
- (iv) Construction of Old Age Homes

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Panchayati Raj Institutions, Local Bodies, etc. for running and maintenance of old age homes (OAHs). An amount of Rs. 60.73 lakh, Rs. 52.02 lakh and Rs. 67.18 lakh were released to NGOs in Assam for running and maintenance of OAHs under the Scheme during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively.

Besides, various concessions/facilities like income tax rebate; concession in rail and air fare; separate queue for older persons and geriatric clinic in several government hospitals, etc. are provided to senior citizens by the Central Government.

Assessment of schemes implementation

3976. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: