

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Uttarakhand	200	200	400
20.	West Bengal	200	200	400
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	200	NIL	200
22.	Assam	200	50	250
23.	Manipur	200	NIL	200
24.	Meghalaya	200	50	250
25.	Mizoram	200	50	250
26.	Nagaland	200	100	300
27.	Sikkim	200	200	400
28.	Tripura	200	200	400
UTs				
29.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	200	800	1000
30.	Chandigarh	200	500	700
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	200	300	500
32.	Daman and Diu	200	300	500
33.	NCT Delhi	200	800	1000
34.	Lakshadweep	200	100	300
35.	Puducherry	200	400	600

Beneficiaries of IGNOAPS

†1854. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of widow pensioners living below the poverty line who are getting pension under the scheme run by Central Government district-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government is ready to consider extending the benefit of this scheme to all the forlorn widows belonging to other castes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) is a component of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which is under State Plan. Under IGNWPS, central assistance is provided to the widows in the age group of 40-59 years and belonging to a household living below poverty line (BPL) as per criteria prescribed by the Government of India. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is applicable to all BPL persons who are 60 years and above. Widows who are above 60 years are covered under IGNOAPS. Identification of beneficiaries as well as sanction and disbursement of assistance is done by the State Governments. As per reports received from States, 37.03 lakh widows are getting pension under IGNWPS. District-wise information is not maintained at central level.

(b) IGNWPS is applicable to all widows belonging to BPL category, irrespective of their caste.

(c) Does not arise.

Inter-Island connectivity in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1855. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of poor inter-Island connectivity in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reactions of Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken by Government to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) Shipping Sector being the lifeline of Islanders, has made substantial development in providing mobility to men and material between Mainland-Island on one side and Inter-Islands on the other. The Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) is responsible for manning, maintaining and operation of the vessels owned by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. Shipping is the main mode of transportation for passenger and cargo between the Islands. DSS is presently providing shipping services between the Islands.