

given towards pension @ Rs. 200/- per month to persons above 60 years and @ Rs. 500/- per month to persons above 80 years belonging to a household below poverty line, which is meant to be supplemented by at least an equal contribution by the States.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisory to State Governments in March 2008 to ensure that life and property of senior citizens is fully protected.

Besides, various facilities and benefits such as income tax concession, air and rail fare concession, etc. are also provided to senior citizens by the Central Government.

(d) Section 43 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for framing of schemes for persons with disabilities for preferential allotment of land at concessional rates for house, setting up business, setting up of special recreation centres, establishment of research centres and establishment of factories by entrepreneurs with disabilities.

District level action Plan for elimination of insanitary latrines

2146. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether District Level Action Plan for time bound elimination of insanitary latrines and rehabilitation of manual scavenger is mooted by the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY SOCIAL OF JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in the light of the Houselisting and Housing Census, 2011 data released by the Registrar General of India in March, 2012, had requested 16 States and National Capital Territory of Delhi which are having districts with more than 5000 insanitary latrines each, to prepare District level action plans for elimination of insanitary latrines and rehabilitation of manual scavengers.

Assistance to old aged persons belonging to Scheduled Castes

†2147. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the majority of old-aged persons belonging to Scheduled Caste do not have any means of income;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government is formulating or proposes to formulate any programme or scheme for providing assistance to such persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) No data is available in this regard.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) with the objective of improving the quality of life of destitute senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and recreation opportunities, etc. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to Governments/ Non-Governmental Organizations/Panchayati Raj Institutions/local bodies, etc. for running and maintenance of age homes, day care centres and mobile medicare units, etc.

The Ministry of Rural Development is administering the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under which Central assistance @ Rs. 200 per month is provided as pension to BPL senior citizens of 60 years and above and @ Rs. 500/- per month for BPL senior citizens of 80 years and above.

Various poverty alleviation programmes such as the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), etc. also implemented by the Government.

Besides, the Government has also enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare. The Act has to be brought into force by the individual State Governments. At present, 26 States and all Union Territories have brought the Act in to force.

The benefits under the above schemes and protection available under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 are available to old-aged persons belonging to Scheduled Castes also.