

1	2	3
26	Uttarakhand	24290.50
27	West Bengal	311697.96
28	Andaman and Nicobar	1247.63
29	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	39.56
30	Daman and Diu	0.00
31	Goa	241.16
32	Lakshadweep	117.55
33	Puducherry	480.93
34	Chandigarh	0.00
TOTAL		2825230.11

Payment of pension under NSAP

‡2312. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Government directive under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) to make payment of pension to the beneficiaries of old age/widow/differently abled pension schemes through nationalized banks/post offices;

(b) whether it is a fact that nationalized banks/post offices are not opening the accounts of the beneficiaries on zero balance basis;

(c) whether Government would issue directions in connection with the opening of accounts;

(d) whether the payment of pension is not being done on a monthly basis;

(e) whether commission is collected for clearing the cheques issued; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) to (c) As per the Government directives the

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

pension amount is to be credited, where feasible, into a post office or public sector bank account of the beneficiary. Necessary instructions have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India to all Scheduled Commercial banks except the RRBs, to make available a basic banking 'no-frills' account either with 'nil' or very low minimum balances as well as charges. Also the Post Office Savings Accounts Rules 1961 has been modified to allow beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) to open a post office account with nil deposit.

(d) to (f) Schemes under NSAP have been transferred to state plan *w.e.f.* financial year 2002-03. Implementation of the schemes at ground level which include sanctioning and disbursement of benefits rests with the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration and the payment of pension in many States/UTs is done on a monthly basis. No instances of commission being collected for clearing of the cheques issued have been brought to the knowledge of this Ministry.

Plan to bring back Indian scientists

†2313. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of scientists working abroad;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any policy to recall these scientists: and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):
(a) Sir, the Ministry of Science and Technology does not maintain any database on number of scientists, working abroad.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the provisions contained in the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, 2013 and Science and Technology Chapter of XIIth 2012-2017, the Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing various initiatives, as given below, to attract Indian scientists working abroad in their respective field of expertise and connect them to home country Science and Technology (S&T) institutions and programmes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.