

**Implementation of welfare schemes
for elderly persons**

585. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of senior citizens in the country is going to increase from 10.50 crore to around 15 crore by 2021;

(b) whether several welfare schemes meant for elderly have become non-operational and defunct over the years due to lack of concern and lethargy towards this section of the population; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to strengthen and ensure proper implementation of welfare schemes meant for elderly population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) Yes, Sir. The projected population aged 60+ for the year 2016 and 2021 (as on 1st March) as per the May 2006 report of the Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the National Commission on Population published by the Office of the Registrar General of India, is as under:

Year	Population in crores		
	Persons	Male	Female
2016	11.81	5.81	5.99
2021	14.32	7.06	7.26

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Since 1992, this Ministry is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP), under which financial assistance, in the form of grants-in-aid is given to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local Bodies, Non-Governmental Voluntary Organisations, Institutions or Organisations set up by Government as autonomous/subordinate bodies, Government Recognized Educational Institutions, Charitable Hospitals/Nursing Homes, and Recognized Youth Organisations such as Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) etc. for running and maintenance of, *inter-alia*, Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units etc. In exceptional cases such financial assistance is also provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Rupees 27.58 crores have been released to the NGOs during the financial year 2015-16 under the IPOP Scheme.

This Ministry has taken following steps to strengthen and ensure proper implementation of welfare schemes meant for elderly persons:-

- (i) Proposals of NGOs for release of grant-in-aid are considered on the basis of recommendations of the State Governments/UTs, Satisfactory reports of inspection carried out annually and completeness of the proposal in all respect as per the norms and guidelines of the Scheme.
- (ii) Subsequent grant are released to the implementing agencies only on receipt of audited statement of accounts and utilization certificates of the grants received in the previous year.
- (iii) Further, to bring about transparency and timely disposal of cases of release of funds, while sanctioning the grants to NGOs, this Ministry has started processing of proposals online from 2014-15.

The Government of India announced the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999. The Policy envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, healthcare, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives.

Subsequently, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act was passed in 2007 to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare. The Act provides for maintenance of parents/senior citizens by children/relatives obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals; revocation of transfer of property by senior citizen in case of negligence by relatives; penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens; establishment of Old Age Homes for indigent senior citizens; adequate medical facilities and security for senior citizens and protection of life and property.

Demand for eradication of manual scavenging

586. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Association of Safai Karmachari has met Hon'ble Prime Minister and demanded eradication of manual scavenging, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether they have staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar demanding eradication of manual scavenging, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for alleviation of their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) No Sir.