

Special central assistance to SC and ST in Rajasthan

†1299. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state whether Government proposes to increase the annual income of SC/ST families in both urban and rural areas by extending special benefits under central assistance to them in Rajasthan, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): In order to enhance the income of SC/ST families of the country including those in State of Rajasthan the Government has taken a large number of initiatives. The worth mentioning schemes being implemented by the Government in this regard are enumerated below:

- (i) Stand up India Scheme to promote entrepreneurship among SCs/STs.
- (ii) National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub to provide professional support to SC/ST entrepreneurs for marketing their products.
- (iii) Equity Support to National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) to provide concession loans to those SCs/STs families who are living below double the poverty line in the rural and urban areas.
- (iv) Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan to give thrust to family oriented programmes for economic development of SCs/STs.
- (v) Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes for promoting entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes population.
- (vi) Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for providing credit to new generation SC entrepreneurs.
- (vii) Minimum Support Price to Minor Forest Produce of the Tribals to increase their annual income.

Old age homes in every district

1300. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that over the past few years, the number of old age homes supported by Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) has declined drastically;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) what is the current status/development of the Government's proposal to set up an Old Age Home in every district in the country; and
- (d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for the effective implementation of IPOP in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) Details of Old Age Home (OAH) supported under the Scheme of IPOP during last three years are as under:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Number of OAH supported
1.	2013-14	207
2.	2014-15	187
3.	2015-16	273

This Ministry has introduced the system of online processing of the proposals under the Scheme of IPOP from the financial year 2014-15. The number of Old Age Homes supported under IPOP during the financial year 2014-15 was less as compared to the previous year and the current year, *inter-alia*, due to non-receipt of proposals from the State/UT Government as it was the first year of implementation of the online system.

(c) Section 19(1) of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act mandates that the State Governments may establish and maintain such number of Old Age Homes at accessible places as it may deem necessary in a phased manner, beginning with at least one in each district to accommodate a minimum of one hundred fifty senior citizens who are indigent. Pursuant to this provision, it is for the State Governments to make assessment of the requirement of old age homes keeping in view that number of indigent Senior Citizens in each district. However, this Ministry under the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme of Older Persons (IPOP) provides financial assistance, in the form of Grant-in-Aid, to Non Governmental Voluntary Organizations/Panchayati Raj Institutions etc. for running and maintenance, *inter-alia*, of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units etc.

(d) This Ministry has taken following steps for effective implementation of the Scheme of IPOP:

- (i) Since the F.Y. 2014-15, this Ministry has started processing of online proposals of the NGOs for releasing of Grant-in-Aid, it is expected to increase the efficiency, transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Scheme.

- (ii) Cost norms of the Scheme have been revised with effect from 01.04.2015, effecting an average increase in the amount of Grant-in-Aid of 70% to 110%.
- (iii) The Scheme of IPOP has also been revised *w.e.f.* 01.04.2016 and certain new projects as components have been added to the Scheme, such as running and maintenance of Old Age Home under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) etc.
- (iv) Financial and Physical performance of the Scheme is periodically reviewed in the Ministry to ensure that allocations provided for the Schemes are fully utilized.
- (v) The performance of the aforesaid Scheme is reviewed from time to time through *inter-alia*, periodic field visits of nodal officers of the Ministry, inspection of the NGOs by Regional Resource Training Centres, Regional Conference with State Secretaries, release of grants to NGOs only on receipt of Audited Accounts and Utilization Certificate in respect of grants released during the previous year's etc.

Addiction of alcohol consumption in NCR

1301. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that youngsters in the National Capital and NCR are in the grip of addiction of alcohol consumption, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) There is no authentic data available in this regard. However, this Ministry has financially supported the proposal of Directorate of Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention, Department of Women and Child Development of NCT of Delhi for conducting the survey in collaboration with AIIMS, New Delhi on mapping and size estimation of street children who use drugs in Delhi.

(b) To create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of alcoholism and substance (drugs) abuse, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been implementing a Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse since 1985-86. Under this scheme, financial assistance up to 90% of the approved expenditure is given to Voluntary Organizations and other eligible agencies for setting up/running Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCAs). In the case of North-Eastern States, Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir, the quantum of assistance is 95% of the total admissible expenditure. At present, the Ministry is providing financial assistance to 23 IRCAs in the National Capital and NCR.