

- (iv) Apart from this, the performance of the NGOs are also monitored from time to time through surprise inspections conducted by officers deputed by this Ministry and by the representatives of the State Government authorities.
- (v) On the basis of the inspection report, necessary corrective action is taken. In respect of deficiencies reported, show cause notices are issued to the NGOs concerned and follow up action is taken on the basis of the replies received. In serious cases of misuse of funds or malfunctioning or non-functioning etc. of the projects, the concerned NGOs are blacklisted after following the extant procedure.
- (c) The details of organisations/institutions received grant from the Ministry under various welfare schemes are available on the website of Ministry i.e. <http://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/Annexure%201398%20compressed.pdf>
- (d) The institutions/organizations submit Utilization Certificate against each release duly certified by the Chartered Accountant and Head of the organization. Further grant is released after receipt of certified Utilization Certificate for previous grant.

#### **Ensuring socially secured life for senior citizens**

1399. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey to find out the number of senior citizens in the country;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that a large chunk of senior citizens lead a very insecure life; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure a socially secured life for the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) As per Census 2011, population of senior citizens in the country is 10.38 crore. State-wise break-up of senior citizens population, as per Census 2011, is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) To enable senior citizens to lead a socially secured life, Government of India announced the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) in 1999 to ensure the well-being of the older persons. The Policy envisaged State support to ensure financial

and food security, health care, 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.

Further, the Government of India, has enacted The Maintenance and welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act in 2007 to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare. The Act *inter-alia* provides for maintenance of parents/senior citizens by children/relatives made obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals, Revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of neglect 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.

A list of Schemes and Programmes, being implemented by Government of India, for welfare of senior citizens is given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*State-wise Details of Aged population (60+) by sex as per Census 2011*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total Population (approx.)		
		Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8278241	3906328	4371913
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25424	14189	11235
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	63639	33189	30450
4.	Assam	2078544	1054817	1023727
5.	Bihar	7707145	4106593	3600552
6.	Chandigarh	67078	34833	32245
7.	Chhattisgarh	2003909	928159	1075750
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13892	6359	7533
9.	Daman and Diu	11361	4873	6488
10.	NCT of Delhi	1147445	576755	570690

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Goa	163495	74315	89180
12.	Gujarat	4786559	2245601	2540958
13.	Haryana	2193755	1088621	1105134
14.	Himachal Pradesh	703009	340875	362134
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	922656	482580	440076
16.	Jharkhand	2356678	1181745	1174933
17.	Karnataka	5791032	2747072	3043960
18.	Kerala	4193393	1883595	2309798
19.	Lakshadweep	5270	2674	2596
20.	Madhya Pradesh	5713316	2769556	2943760
21.	Maharashtra	11106935	5253709	5853226
22.	Manipur	187694	93137	94557
23.	Meghalaya	138902	66939	71963
24.	Mizoram	68628	34345	34283
25.	Nagaland	102726	54779	47947
26.	Odisha	3984448	1994270	1990178
27.	Puducherry	120436	53419	67017
28.	Punjab	2865817	1443662	1422155
29.	Rajasthan	5112138	2432263	2679875
30.	Sikkim	40752	22472	18280
31.	Tamil Nadu	7509758	3661226	3848532
32.	Tripura	289544	141920	147624
33.	Uttar Pradesh	15439904	8037133	7402771
34.	Uttarakhand	900809	441897	458912
35.	West Bengal	7742382	3851314	3891068
TOTAL		103836714	51065214	52771500

***Statement-II***

*Schemes and Programmes being run by the various Ministries/Departments of Government of India, for welfare of Senior Citizens*

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:**

1. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely “Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSc)” {previously known as “Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)” } under which grants in aid are given for running and maintenance of Senior Citizens Homes (Old Age Homes)/Continuous Care Homes, Mobile Medicare Units etc. to the Implementing Agencies such as State Governments/Union Territory Administrations (through Registered Societies)/Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/Local bodies; Non-Governmental/Voluntary Organizations. Under the Scheme grant is released after the receipt of Utilization Certificate of previous grant.
2. Further, this Ministry has launched the ‘ Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)’ on 1st April, 2017 with an objective to provide senior citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from age related disabilities/infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. Under the Scheme, assisted living devices such as walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/crutches, tripods/quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures, spectacles are provided free of cost to the identified beneficiary senior citizens. The Scheme is being implemented by the “Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)” , a Public Sector Undertaking under this Ministry. The devices are distributed in the camp mode to the identified beneficiaries. The Scheme is being funded from Senior Citizens’ Welfare Fund (SCWF).
3. In pursuance of the Budget Announcement, 2015-16, a “Senior Citizens’ Welfare Fund” has been created to be utilized for such schemes, for promoting financial security of senior citizens, healthcare and nutrition of senior citizens, welfare of elderly widows, schemes relating to Old Age Homes, Short Stay Homes and Day Care of senior citizens etc., for the promotion of the welfare of senior citizens. The Fund comprises of the unclaimed amounts transferred by every institution holding such fund in the Schemes including Small Savings and other Saving Schemes of the Central Government such as Post Office Savings Accounts, Post Office Recurring Deposits Accounts etc., Accounts of Public Provident Funds and Accounts of Employees Provident Fund, that remain unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date of the account being declared as inoperative account.

4. The Fund is administered by an Inter-Ministerial Committee, comprising of Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Labour and Employment, with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as the Nodal Ministry for administration of the Fund.
5. In pursuance of the National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP), a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) was constituted in 1999 to oversee implementation of the Policy and to advise the Government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the aged. The National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) has been reconstituted and renamed as National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC) in 2012. The mandate of NCSrC is to advise Central and State Governments on the entire gamut of issues related to welfare of senior citizens and enhancement of their quality of life. The Hon' ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment is the Chairperson of the Council.
6. In order to recognize the efforts made by eminent Senior Citizens and Institutions involved in rendering distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment started celebrating International Day of Older Persons (IDOP), since 1st October, 2005, giving ' Vayoshreshtha Samman' in recognition to their contribution to the society. Further, in order to showcase the Government's concern for senior citizens and its commitment towards senior citizens with the aim of strengthening their legitimate place in the society, the Vayoshreshtha Samman was upgraded to National Award and the Scheme of National Awards for Senior Citizens was notified in the Gazette of India on 22.01.2013. The Awards are given under thirteen categories. The National Awards were presented for the first time during 2013, on 1st October, on the occasion of International Day of Older Persons (IDOP). On 1st October every year. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment also organizes Health Camps, Inter-generational walkathons etc. in different States with active participation of Senior Citizens, Youth, Celebrities and Media-persons etc.

**Ministry of Rural Development:**

7. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of Rural Development. NSAP is a social security/social welfare programme applicable to old aged, widows, disabled persons and bereaved families on death of primary bread winner, belonging to below poverty line household. Old age pension is provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme



(IGNOAPS) to the persons belonging to below poverty line (BPL) household. Central assistance of ₹ 200/- per month is provided to the persons of 60-79 years of age and ₹ 500/- per month to the persons of age of 80 years or more. This Scheme is implemented by the States/UTs. Identification of beneficiaries, sanction and disbursement of benefit under the schemes is done by the States/UTs.

8. Top-up details as given by State Governments/UT Administrations:—

Sl. No.	Top-up per person per month	States/UTs
1.	No top-up	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur
2.	Top-up of ₹ 50/-	Meghalaya, Mizoram
3.	Top-up of ₹ 75/-	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Top-up of ₹ 100/-	Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh
5.	Top-up of ₹ 200/-	Assam, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir
6.	Top-up of ₹ 250/-	Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal
7.	Top-up of ₹ 300/-	Rajasthan, Tripura, Karnataka
8.	Top-up of ₹ 400/-	Bihar, Maharashtra, Sikkim
9.	Top-up of ₹ 600/-	Uttarakhand
10.	Top-up of ₹ 800/-	Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep
11.	Top-up of ₹ 1000/-	Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana
12.	Top-up of ₹ 1200/-	Haryana
13.	Top-up of ₹ 1800/-	Goa, Puducherry

**Department of Food and Public Distribution**

9. Department of Food and Public Distribution allocates food grains as per requirements projected by the Ministry of Rural Development under the Annapurna Scheme, wherein indigent senior citizens, who are not getting pension under IGNOAPS, are provided 10 kg of food grains per person per month free of cost.

10. Department of Food and Public Distribution implements Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), under which rice and wheat at a highly subsidised cost, is extended to households, headed by widows/terminally ill/disabled persons/senior citizens, with no assured means of maintenance or societal support.

**Ministry of Finance:**

11. Ministry of Finance has launched a scheme namely ‘ Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana’ (PMVVY) to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to the uncertain market condition, as also to provide social security during old age. The scheme is being implemented through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India. The scheme provides an assured return of 8% per annum payable monthly for 10 years. The differential return *i.e.* the difference between return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8% per annum would be borne by Government of India as subsidy on annual basis. The scheme was open for subscription for a period of one year *i.e.* from 4th May, 2017 to 3rd May, 2018. The minimum purchase price under the scheme was ₹ 1.5 lakh per family for a minimum pension of ₹ 1,000/- per month and the maximum purchase price was ₹ 7.5 lakh per family for a maximum pension of ₹ 5,000/- per month.
12. In pursuance to Budget Announcement 2018-19, Cabinet at its Meeting held on 2nd May, 2018 has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Yaya Vandana Yojana up to 31st March, 2020 and limit of maximum purchase price of ₹ 7.5 lakh per family under the scheme has also been enhanced to ₹ 15 lakh per senior citizen. Accordingly, the maximum pension admissible under the Scheme is now ₹ 10,000/- per month. A total of number of 3,67,998 subscribers are being benefited under PMVVY as on 31.05.2019.
13. Further, Ministry of Finance provides Income Tax Rebate to senior citizens. Income Tax exemption for senior citizens of 60 years and above age is upto ₹ 3 lakhs and only 5% is levied on income between 3 lakhs and 5 lakhs. Senior citizens above 80 years and above age are exempted from paying income tax upto ₹ 5 lakhs. Deduction in case of every senior citizens u/s 80DDB of the Income Tax Act on expenditure on account of specified diseases has been increased. To incentivize younger generation to look after medical needs of their parents, section 80D of I.T. Act provides for a deduction to keep in force insurance on the health of the parents or parents of the assessee. A similar deduction is also available to a Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) in respect of health insurance premia, to effect or to keep

in force insurance on the health of any member of the HUF. Further, the existing provisions of section 207 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 exempts individual resident senior citizens (60+ years) at any time during the previous year, from payment of advance tax who does not have any income chargeable under the head 'Profits and gains of business or profession'.

14. Under the Service Tax law, activities relating to advancement of education programmes or skill development relating to persons over the age of 65 years residing in a rural area by an entity registered under Section 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 are exempt from Service Tax. With respect to senior citizens having Savings Account in Banks and Post Offices, higher interest rates is given to the senior citizens.

15. Scheme for Reverse Mortgage:

The Scheme was launched in 2007. Under the Scheme, senior citizens can mortgage their property with Bank and can get a maximum loan amount up to 60% of the value of the residential property. The maximum tenure of the mortgage is 15 years and minimum is 10 years. Some banks are now also offering a maximum tenure of 20 years.

16. Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA), under the Ministry of Finance, *vide* letter dated 25.5.2009 issued instructions on health insurance for senior citizens to CEOs of all General Health Insurance Companies which, *inter-alia*, includes:—

- Allowing entry into health insurance scheme till 65 years of age.
- Transparency in the premium charged.
- Reasons to be recorded for denial of any proposals etc. on all health insurance products catering to the needs of senior citizens.
- Likewise the insurance companies cannot deny renewability without specific reasons.

#### **Ministry of Textiles**

17. Ministry of Textiles has a Scheme under which a monthly financial assistance of ₹ 3,500/- per month is given to such handicrafts awardee artisans who are above 60 years of age and have an annual income of less than ₹ 50,000/-.



**Department Pension and Pensioners' Welfare**

18. Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare monitors and ensures that the retiring Central Government employees are granted retirement benefits including pension, so that they can live an active and dignified life after retirement.

**Ministry of Home Affairs**

19. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued two detailed advisories dated 27-3-2008 and 30-8-2013 to all States Governments/UTs advising them to take immediate measures to ensure safety and security and for elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence against old persons through initiatives such as identification of senior citizens, sensitization of police personnel regarding safety, security of older persons, regular visit of the beat staff; setting up of toll free senior citizen helpline; setting up of senior citizen security cell; verification of domestic helps, drivers etc.

**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**

20. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) in 2015 as a nation-wide Campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign) aims to enable persons with disabilities to gain universal access, equal opportunity for development, independent living and participation in an inclusive society in all aspects of life. This includes creation of elder friendly barrier free environment in buildings, public toilets, buses, bus-stands, airports and other public places to create age-friendly cities.

**Ministry of Railways:**

21. Indian Railways have taken various measures for welfare of senior citizens, some of which are under:—
- (i) As per rules, male senior citizens of minimum 60 years and lady senior citizens of minimum 58 years are granted concession in the fares of all classes of Mail/Express/Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi/Duronto group of trains. The element of concession is 40% for men and 50% for women.

No proof of age is required at the time of purchasing tickets. However, they are required to carry some documentary proof as prescribed showing their age

or date of birth and have to produce it if demanded by on-board ticket checking staff. Senior citizens can book reserve tickets across the reservation counters as well as through internet.

- (ii) In the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS), there is a provision to allot lower berths to Senior citizens, Female passengers of 45 years and above automatically, even if no choice is given, subject to availability of accommodation at the time of booking.
- (iii) In all trains having reserved sleeping accommodation, a combined quota of six (6) lower berths per coach in Sleeper class and three (3) lower berths per coach each in AC 3 tier and AC 2 tier classes has been earmarked for senior citizens, Female passengers of 45 years of age above and pregnant women. In case of Rajdhani, Duronto and fully Air Conditioned/Express trains, the number of berths to be earmarked under this quota in 3 AC is 4 (four) lower berths per coach as against 3 (three) lower berths per coach in normal Mail/Express trains.
- (iv) Accommodation is also earmarked for senior citizens during specified hours on suburban sections by Central and Western Railways.
- (v) Instructions exist for provision of wheel chairs at stations. This facility is provided, duly escorted by coolies (on payment) as per present practice. Moreover, Zonal Railways have also been advised to provide free of cost 'Battery Operated Vehicles for Disabled and Old Aged passengers' at Railway Stations. In addition, passenger can book e-wheel chairs online through IRCTC portal [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in).
- (vi) To help old and disabled passengers requiring assistance at the stations and to strengthen the existing services, 'Yatri Mitra Sewa' is being provided through IRCTC at major stations for enabling passengers to book wheelchair services cum porter services etc.
- (vii) After departure of the train, if there are vacant lower berths available in the train and if any physically person with disability booked on the authority of handicapped concession or a senior citizen or a pregnant woman, who has been allotted upper/middle berth, approaches for allotment of vacant lower berths, the on-board Ticket Checking Staff has been authorised to allot the vacant lower berth to them making necessary entries in the chart.

- (viii) **Separate counters** are earmarked at various Passengers Reservation System (PRS) centres for dealing with the reservation requisitions received from physically persons with disability, senior citizens, ex-MPS, MLAs accredited journalists and freedom fighters, if the average demand per shift not less than 120 tickets. In case there is no justification for earmarking of an exclusive counter for any of these categories of persons including persons with disability or senior citizens, one or two counters depending upon the total demand are earmarked for dealing with the reservation requests for all these categories of persons.

**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:**

22. Government of India has been implementing National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) from the F.Y. 2010-11 to provide dedicated healthcare services to the elderly people at various level of State health care delivery system at primary, secondary and tertiary health care including outreach services.
23. National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) has two components with the following provisions to provide health care facilities to the elderly people in the country:—
- (1) National Health Mission (NHM) component: The district and below activities of the programme is being covered under Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) flexible pool of NHM which are as follows:—
- Geriatric OPD and 10 bedded Geriatric Ward at District Hospitals.
  - Bi-weekly Geriatric Clinic at Community Health Centres (CHCs).
  - Weekly Geriatric Clinic at Primary Health Centre (PHCs).
  - Provision of Aids and Appliances at Sub-centres.

The programme is being implemented on the basis of Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) submitted by the States/UTs and viability under the provisions of NPHCE. As on date, 599 districts of 35 States/UTs have been approved to implement the District and below activities of the Programme.

- (2) Tertiary Component: In addition to NHM component of the programme, to ensure appropriate referral for conditions not amenable to be treated at primary and secondary level to create human resource orientated towards geriatric care, this Ministry is supporting development of 19 Regional Geriatric Centres

(RGCs) with and establishment of 02 National Centres of Ageing each at AIIMS, New Delhi and MMC, Chennai with the following geriatric health care facilities:—

- Geriatric OPD, 30 bedded Geriatric ward for in-patient care @ RGCs and 200 bedded Geriatric ward @ NCAs.
- 02 PG seats per RGC and 15 PG seats per NCA in Geriatric Medicine.
- Research activities, Imparting Training and Development of training material.

24. Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) Project: The project was launched in 2016 to assess the health, economic and social status of the elderly (age 45-60). This project is going to be one of the largest comprehensive ageing surveys in the world with a sample size of 61,000. LASI project is being conducted by International Institute for Population Sciences, IIPS, (Deemed University), Mumbai which is an autonomous organization under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In India, LASI is to be undertaken by IIPS in collaboration with Harvard School of Public Health and Rand Corporation with the financial sponsorship from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, UNFPA India and National Institute of Health (NIH)/ National Institute of Ageing (NIA), USA. So far an amount of ₹ 29.20 crore has been released under the programme.
25. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY): The RSBY is a centrally sponsored scheme that was implemented by Ministry of Labour and Employment since 2008, under the Unorganised Workers-Social Security Act, 2008, to provide health insurance coverage to BPL families and 11 other categories of unorganized workers. The Scheme has been transferred to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015. Each family enrolled in the Scheme is entitled to hospitalization benefits of upto ₹ 30,000/- p.a. in Government as well as empanelled private hospitals. Transportation cost of ₹ 100/- per visit is also apsid to the beneficiary family, subject to maximum ceiling of ₹ 1000/- per year. Currently (2018-19), 12 States are implementing RSBY.
26. Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS): This Scheme, being implemented since 2016 provides insurance cover to senior citizens as a top-up over the existing RSBY Scheme. This Scheme provides an additional annual coverage of ₹ 30,000/- per senior citizen in the eligible RSBY beneficiary family. SCHIS provides a health insurance cover of ₹ 30,000/- which is available to senior citizens in

additional to the coverage of ₹ 30,000/- under RSBY. If in any RSBY enrolled family, there are more than one senior citizen, then the additional cover will be in multiple of ₹ 30,000/- per senior citizen. 211 treatment packages are covered under SCHIS, in addition to 1516 packages under RSBY. Currently, 08 States, namely Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal are implementing SCHIS. Around 18 lakh families having senior citizen (s) are covered under SCHIS as per available records.

27. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY): In March, 2018, Government has approved the launch of Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY during 2018-19 to cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approx. 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto ₹ 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization, PMJAY has been launched on 23rd September, 2018. With the launch of the PMJAY, RSBY and SCHIS will be subsumed in it. All enrolled beneficiary families of RSBY and SCHIS are entitled for benefits under PMJAY.

**Ministry of Communications:**

28. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), under Ministry of Communications, has reported that Senior Citizens of the age of 65 years and above are exempted from Payment of registration charges for Landline Telephone Connection.
29. Further, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL), under Ministry of Communications, provides concession of 25% in installation/activation charges and monthly services/rental charges for landline connections under Plan-250 in Senior Citizens Category, to senior citizens who are more than 65 years of age.

**Ministry of Civil Aviation:**

30. In order to facilitate the passengers, particularly senior citizens, expectant mothers, passengers with disability, first time travellers etc., Ministry of Civil Aviation has instructed all the stakeholders to ensure that the following requirements are complied:—
- Airline/airport operator shall ensure provision of automated buggies free of charge for all senior citizens, in the terminal building to facilitate their access to boarding gates located beyond reasonable walking distance at all airports having annual aircraft movements of 50,000 or more. This facility may be extended to other needy passengers on demand basis free of charge.



- Airport operators shall provide small trolleys after security check for carriage of hand baggage (permitted as per regulation) up to the boarding gate.
- Airport operator shall adequately display information regarding availability of automated buggies and small trolleys in the terminal building at prominent locations including dos and don'ts regarding the same. This shall also be published on the website of the airport operator,
- Further, Air India offers 50% discount to senior citizens on the highest economy class Basic Fare. The discount is offered to those who have completed 60 years of age on the date of commencement of journey.
- Senior citizens can also avail multi-level fares offered by Air India on each sector for travel on domestic sectors, starting from a low level advance purchase fares which facilitate early selling to the highest one.

**Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs:**

31. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Department of Urban Development has issued the Model Building Bye Laws, 2016 (MBBL) which under chapter 8 prescribes standards for creation of elder friendly barrier free environment with reference to buildings, toilets etc. Urban Local Bodies shall implement the Policy by adopting the Model.

Building Bye Laws, 2016. The Department has issued 'Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier-Free Built Environment for persons with Disability and Elderly Persons' in 2016. These Guidelines intend to address the needs of persons with disabilities and elderly persons with a wide range of accessibility elements and standards and not limited to disabilities only, thus paving the way for universally accessible and inclusive India.

32. Under Urban Bus Specification-II issued in 2013, the emphasis on buses financed by the Department of Urban Development is on procurement of low floor buses with proper ramps for easy access of the passengers and proper space for wheel chair to be placed in the bus for the benefit of disabled persons and senior citizens.
33. All metro rail projects implemented/under implementation in the country are having disabled and elder friendly infrastructure such as proper ramps/lifts to the stations, level boarding the alighting of passengers etc. There is a provision of

reservation of seats in metro rail coaches for the differently-abled persons and senior citizens.

34. Housing for All (Urban) Mission/Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was approved by the Government of India on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and launched on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2015. The Mission Guidelines have been circulated to State/UTs to meet the demand of housing in their States/UTs. In Para 4.8.10 in PMAY-HFA (U) Guidelines, it has, *inter-alia*, been incorporated that- ‘ while making the allotment, families with senior citizens should be given priority for allotment on ground floor or lower floors’ .

**Ministry of Women and Child Development:**

35. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has constructed a Home for Widows at Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan, Distt. Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, with a capacity of 1000 widows to provide them safe and secure place to stay, health services, nutritious food, legal and counseling services. The new home for widows named as Krishna Kutir is constructed on 1.424 hectare of land. The design of the Home is old age friendly which consists of ground plus three floors with the facilities of ramps, lifts, supply of adequate electricity, water and other amenities for meeting the requirement of senior citizens and persons with special challenges. The Home is fully funded by Central Government. The Home was inaugurated on 31.8.2018. The Home is operational w.e.f. 01.09.2018 and managed by Government of Uttar Pradesh.

**Ministry of AYUSH:**

36. Ministry of AYUSH has been providing the following facilities to senior citizens:—
- (i) Free consultation and yoga therapy under Yoga and Naturopathy.
  - (ii) OPDs are being provided in various Government Hospital at Delhi, Haryana, Tripura, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand.
  - (iii) Free Yoga training at 50 Yoga Parks are being run through NGOs in various states of the country.
  - (iv) In addition, other programmes such as Health Promotion Programme, Yoga Therapy Programmes, Individual Yoga Therapy Sessions, Weekend Yoga Training Programmes, Monthly Clinical Yoga Therapy Workshop are also being imparted.