

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2196**  
ANSWERED ON - 19/03/2025

**INCREASING RATIO OF ELDERLY IN THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION**

2196#. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether according to a survey, the ratio of the elderly population above 60 years of age in the country will increase from 10.1% in 2021 to 15% in 2036 and 20.8% by 2050;
- (b) whether a rapid increase in the number of elderly people and a decrease in the population below the age of 15 have been registered since 2010; and
- (c) if so, the problems that would arise due to said situation and the steps being taken to address them?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) & (b) As per report of Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the National Commission on Population, between 2011 and 2036 , the proportion of population of the older ages (60 years and above) is projected to increase from 8.4 to 14.9 percent. During the same period, the proportion of population aged under 15 years is projected to decline from 30.9 to 20.1 per cent.

(c) The projected rise in the elderly population demand better health care facilities and welfare schemes/programmes for elderly people. Therefore, to mitigate the hardships of the elderly people and to cater to their future needs, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing an umbrella scheme Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY) to ensure economic security for economically vulnerable elderly populations. The scheme has following components:-

- i. **Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)** - Grant in aid is provided to Non-Governmental/ Voluntary Organisations for running and maintenance of senior citizen homes (old age homes), continuous care homes, etc. Facilities like shelter, nutrition, medicare and entertainments are provided free of cost to indigent senior citizens.

- ii. **State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC)**- Under State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC), the Government of India perceives a major and critical role of all State Governments in partnering and implementing the Action Plan for welfare of senior citizens. Grant in aid is provided to States/ UTs for activities like awareness generation, sensitization, cataract surgeries and State specific activities.
- iii. **Elderline** - The National Helpline for Sr Citizens is to generate awareness about the Act, schemes & programmes being executed by different Central & State Governments and to provide platform to redress grievances of Sr Citizens across the country.
- iv. **Rastriya Vayoshree Yojana(RVY)**- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the scheme of 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)' with an objective to provide senior citizens, belonging to BPL category or the senior citizen with the monthly income not more than Rs. 15000/- and suffering from age related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. The scheme was launched on 01.04.2017. The Scheme is implemented through the 'Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)', (a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the M/oSJE) as the sole implementing Agency.
- v. **Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine(SAGE)** - To promote out-of-the-box and innovative solutions for the commonly faced problems, innovative start-ups would be identified and encouraged for developing products, processes and services for the welfare of the elderly. The selection of the start-ups would be made through a transparent process and the fund would be provided as equity, subject to the Govt investment not exceeding 49% of the total equity of the Firm.
- vi. **Training of Geriatric Care Givers**- The main objective is to bridge the gap in supply and increasing demand in the field of geriatric caregivers so as to provide more professional services to the senior citizens and also to create a cadre of professional care givers in the field of geriatrics. The programme will ensure sufficient availability of dedicated, professionally trained manpower of geriatric caregivers who can attend to diverse and dynamic needs of elderly population relating to recreation, holistic well-being through Naturopathy, alternative medical practices including Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy, physiotherapy, normal and emergent and crisis related medical conditions including Dementia, Paralysis, Prostate, Parkinson, Alzheimer, Depression, religious and spiritual handholding, overall management of patients and families dealing with terminal illness and death etc.
- vii. **Other Initiatives for Senior Citizens:** In order to solve the problems of healthy and productive ageing, several initiatives have been taken across the country. The initiatives aim at involving the elders in building up knowledge which can be useful for the society as a whole.

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