

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1078
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017**

DEVICES FOR ASSISTANCE TO SENIOR CITIZENS BELOW POVERTY LINE

†1078. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has launched a plan to provide devices for assistance to senior citizens living below poverty line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the expected number of beneficiaries, State/ Union Territory-wise;
- (c) whether Government has written letters to all the Chief Ministers to start the process of identifying beneficiaries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response received thereto; and
- (e) whether Government has constituted any committee to ensure proper identification of beneficiaries and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (e): Yes. The Department has announced a Scheme namely, "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana". The Scheme aims at providing Senior Citizens belonging to BPL Category and suffering from any of the age-related Disability/infirmary namely, low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and locomotor disability, with such assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/ infirmary. The assisted devices will be of high quality and conforming to the standards laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), wherever feasible.

In the current financial year, the Scheme is proposed to be launched in two Districts namely Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) and Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), targeting 2000 beneficiaries-Senior Citizens in each of the Districts. A Committee at the District level under the Chairmanship of the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner concerned for the purpose of identification of the beneficiaries under the Scheme has been constituted. All the Chief Ministers of the States have been addressed and there is a positive response.
