

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO -163
ANSWERED ON - 15/03/2023

BASIC MEDICAL FACILITIES AT OLD AGE HOMES

163. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY

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

- (a) whether Government is taking steps towards building formal pathways between old age homes and public health facilities for basic health screening, which includes screenings for blood sugar, blood pressure, periodic vision and hearing screening, and a simple questionnaire to assess mental health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Reply of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *163 to be answered on 15.03.2023

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is already implementing Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPsRC), a component of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY), under which grant in aid is provided to NGOs/ Voluntary Organisations for running and maintenance of Senior Citizens Homes (old age homes), Continuous Care Homes, etc. Facilities like shelter, nutrition, medicare and recreational activities are provided free of cost to the indigent senior citizens living in such homes.

Under IPsRC, following facilities are provided free of cost to the indigents living in Senior Citizen homes:-

- i. A doctor visits Senior Citizen Home at least twice a week for health check-up of all the beneficiaries and he is also bound to attend the beneficiaries in emergency. As far as possible, a Doctor residing near the Home is engaged.
- ii. A nurse is engaged in Sr. Citizen home for a minimum of 2 hours per day for 5 days in a week for basic medical check-up and to provide nursing/ basic geriatric care of the residents.
- iii. A yoga therapist is provided for each old age home who is required to visit the centre at least 3 times a week for minimum one hour per day.
- iv. The Scheme guidelines also provide that the project should have first aid kit, glucometer, BP monitoring machine, weighing machine and medicines as prescribed by a Doctor. Regular Health Camps are to be organized by implementing agencies in coordination with the District Administration. Arrangements are required to be made with the nearest Government hospital for emergency medical care.
- v. In the Scheme, there is also a provision of Continuous Care Homes for senior citizens afflicted with Alzheimer's disease/ Dementia. As the name suggests such homes are for those indigent senior citizens who either suffer from dementia, or for those who require continuous care. In Continuous Care Homes, a Doctor and two Nurses are engaged for full time. A Part time Yoga therapist is also engaged in such homes. Apart from medicines and nutrition, the scheme also provides for pathological test material in Continuous Care Homes.
- vi. In case further medical assistance is required, the same is provided by the District Hospital Authorities.

(c) It is not applicable.
