

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO -310
ANSWERED ON – 29/03/2023**

PENSION FOR ELDER PERSONS

310. SHRI IRANNA KADADI

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated any policy for pension of elderly persons in the country;
- (b) whether the policy has been able to achieve its aims and objectives, details thereof;
- (c) the amount allocated by Government for such a policy in the last three years and the actual amount spent thereon; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government for the awareness of such policy, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

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

Reply of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *310 to be answered on 29.03.2023

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Under National Old Age Pension Scheme of NSAP, a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Department of Rural Development, Government of India, monthly pension at Rs.200/- per month per beneficiary to elderly persons in the age group of 60-79 years belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households is being paid. The amount of pension is increased to Rs. 500/- per month per beneficiary on reaching the age of 80 years.

The State/UTs are encouraged to provide top up amounts at least an equivalent amount to the assistance provided by the Central Govt. so that the beneficiaries could get a decent level of assistance. At present, the States/UTs are adding Top up amounts ranging from Rs.50 to Rs.3000 per month per beneficiaries under National Old Age Pension Scheme of NSAP.

The assistance under NSAP pension schemes is sanctioned up to the scheme-wise, State/ UT-wise cap of beneficiaries under the scheme. At present, the State/UT-wise cap of beneficiaries under National Old Age Pension Scheme is around 2.21 crore and the Scheme has achieved almost 100% saturation in all States/ UTs. The States/UTs have the option to provide pension from their own sources in case there are more eligible beneficiaries over and above the State/UT cap under the NSAP pension schemes.

(c) The details of amount allocated under National Old Age Pension Scheme of NSAP and amount released to States/UTs during last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount allocated	Amount released
2019-20	6259.08	6193.38
2020-21	6259.08	6152.61
2021-22	6259.08	5806.39

(d) The identification of beneficiaries and sanction & disbursement of benefits to them is done by the respective State/UT. The States/ UTs have been requested to ensure wide and continuous publicity about the entitlements under the schemes of NSAP and procedure for claiming them. District, Block/ Intermediate and Village level panchayats and urban local government institutions play vital role in creating awareness among the people.
