

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2493
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/03/2023

INCREASING CENTRE'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS DISABILITY PENSION

2493 SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to increase the Centre's contributions towards disability pensions, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether there exist any poverty alleviation schemes exclusively for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), given the acknowledged link between poverty and disability; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) Under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), monthly pension at the rate of Rs.300/- per month to disabled persons in the age group of 18 to 79 years belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households is being paid. The amount of pension is increased to Rs. 500/- per month in respect of these beneficiaries on reaching the age of 80 years and above.

While considering the continuation of the NSAP for the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-26), the revision in the eligibility criteria and rate of assistance under NSAP schemes was considered by the Government. However, the Government has approved continuation of NSAP scheme in its present form. Therefore, no proposal to increase the pension amount at present. The States/ UTs are, however, encouraged to provide top-ups over and above the central assistance under the NSAP. Presently, these amounts range from Rs.100 to Rs. 3200 per month per beneficiary under disability pension.

(b) & (c) The NSAP Guidelines provide for convergence of different anti-poverty programmes with NSAP. Various benefits are made available to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), PradhanMantriAwasYojana-Gramin (PGAY-G), DeendayalAntyodaysYojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), etc. through the convergence approach. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has informed that several schemes viz. Scholarship for students with disabilities, Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), DeendayalDivyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) and Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) are implemented for the empowerment of PwDs.
