

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 148
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

PENSION FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS

*148 DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has periodically evaluated the pension provided to marginalized groups such as the elderly, widows and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs);
- (b) if so, the parameters used to determine the pension for these marginalized sections;
- (c) number of pension beneficiaries from marginalized sections since 2019; and
- (d) the reasons for meagre pension amount being given by Government as per the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

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

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *148 for 02.08.2023 raised by Dr. Ameer Yajnik, Hon'ble MP (RS)

(a) & (b): The Government has periodically evaluated the pension provided to marginalized groups such as the elderly, widows and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under pension schemes of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) since its inception in 15th August, 1995. Based on such evaluation, several changes have been made in terms of the composition, eligibility criterion and amount of financial assistance from time to time including: (i) In 2007, the eligibility criterion of “destitution” was replaced by Below Poverty Line (BPL) and the unit rate of assistance under old age pension scheme was increased from ₹75/- to ₹200/-; (ii) In 2009, two new pension schemes for widows and disabled persons were introduced providing monthly pension @ Rs.200 per month; (iii) In 2011, assistance under old age was increased to ₹500/- for persons of 80 years of age and above and age criterion for eligibility was lowered from 65 years to 60 years; and (iv) In 2012, the rate of assistance under widow and disability pension schemes was increased to ₹300/- from ₹200/- for the widows in the age of 40-79 years and disabled persons in the age group of 18-79 years.

(c): State/UT-wise number of old age, widow and disabled beneficiaries covered under NSAP pension schemes since 2019-20 is placed at **Annexure-I**.

(d): Currently, the eligible old aged, widows, and disabled persons of BPL families are being provided monthly pension ranging from Rs.200/- to Rs.500/- p.m. under pension schemes of NSAP. However, the State/UTs are encouraged to provide top up amounts of at least an amount equivalent to the assistance provided by the Central Government so that the beneficiaries could get a decent level of assistance.

Annexure referred to in part (c) of the reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 148 due for answer on 02.08.2023**State/UT-wise number of old age, widow and disabled beneficiaries covered under NSAP pension schemes since 2019-20**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Old Age Beneficiary				Widow Beneficiary				Disabled Beneficiary			
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Andhra Pradesh	662641	662641	662641	662641	245607	245607	245607	245607	24413	24413	24413	24413
2	Bihar	2996472	2996472	2996472	2996472	547777	547777	634695	634695	120562	120562	126156	126156
3	Chhattisgarh	644429	644429	644429	644429	176601	183076	192701	198493	31245	32017	31953	31985
4	Goa	1705	1705	5933	7263	315	315	4915	5868	41	41	466	466
5	Gujarat	580706	580706	580706	580706	97473	218395	218395	231632	10774	12370	20557	20300
6	Haryana	258583	258583	256656	258583	57149	57149	57149	57149	11537	11537	11537	11537
7	Himachal Pradesh	93033	93033	93178	93178	17979	17979	17979	21974	851	851	853	853
8	Jharkhand	993567	993567	993567	992852	270447	271579	268589	267477	24836	25598	26496	26516
9	Karnataka	894697	894722	899422	899422	460074	460084	452027	452027	43639	43639	43639	44825
10	Kerala	449158	449158	449158	449158	209236	209236	209236	209236	29935	29935	29935	29935
11	Madhya Pradesh	1569627	1569627	1569627	1569627	536412	536412	536412	536412	99924	99924	99924	99924
12	Maharashtra	1100183	1122228	1136682	1124360	60548	64956	70671	74933	7654	8522	8870	9106
13	Odisha	1418631	1418631	1418631	1418631	526209	525706	508015	528570	82182	86767	85805	90754
14	Punjab	118959	103875	111113	112955	16294	15311	18462	19294	5151	4710	5656	5982
15	Rajasthan	799636	799636	799636	799636	160008	180341	278712	305053	28137	29496	30502	30513
16	Tamil Nadu	1237809	1237809	1237809	1237809	519690	519690	549084	565139	57201	57201	63261	63261
17	Telangana	472978	473575	473575	473575	175530	175530	175530	175530	17448	17448	17448	17448
18	Uttar Pradesh	4192393	4345014	4345014	4419105	991784	991784	991784	1025236	73213	73213	75280	75280

19	Uttarakhand	191597	191597	206164	204557	20690	20690	25906	23898	2822	2822	2880	2880
20	West Bengal	1423192	1423192	1409188	1326995	644590	644590	644590	733189	65177	65802	61539	61019
NE States													
21	Arunachal Pradesh	5441	29290	5894	5894	286	3565	288	288	112	1284	112	112
22	Assam	707927	707927	693284	695323	114141	114888	112222	113745	18916	18916	18916	34864
23	Manipur	55585	55926	55926	55904	5380	5623	5655	6065	1007	1007	1007	1005
24	Meghalaya	45935	52501	55280	56097	7223	8498	8424	8024	969	969	969	1558
25	Mizoram	25213	24981	25123	24524	1925	1925	1925	2278	400	400	400	686
26	Nagaland	44530	44530	44530	44530	3720	3720	3720	3720	960	960	960	960
27	Sikkim	16418	16418	16418	16923	1463	1463	1469	1469	451	451	457	457
28	Tripura	120460	113920	102680	125280	16059	12989	13336	16013	1954	1783	1769	1856
Union Territories													
29	A&N Islands	5924	590	590	587	3	3	3	3	1	1	2	2
30	Chandigarh	2373	2373	2373	2378	942	942	942	2486	100	100	100	100
31	D&N Haveli and D & Diu	8898	8898	8898	8898	1858	1858	1858	1858	208	208	254	320
32	NCT Delhi	119403	119403	119403	115466	30712	30712	32797	32158	6321	6321	6321	4647
33	J & K	133033		129905	129814	7487	7278	7278	7619	2769	2426	2426	2426
34	Ladakh		6488	6488	6486		443	209	443		363	150	219
35	Lakshadweep	181	166	166	159	92	89	89	87	51	51	51	51
36	Puducherry	17713	17003	17003	17713	9785	8514	9785	9785	1259	1259	1259	1259
	GRAND TOTAL	21409030	21460614	21573562	21577930	5935489	6088717	6300459	6517453	772220	783367	802323	823675
