

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 130
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/08/2024

PENSION AMOUNT UNDER NSAP

*130 DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pension amount under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) has been reviewed and revised several times since its inception, if so, the details of the revised assistance, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has encouraged States/UTs to provide additional amounts in the NSAP pension, resulting in an average monthly pension of around ₹1,000 in many areas; and
- (c) whether monthly pension disbursement is mandatory in the NSAP guidelines, and if so, the number of States/UTs that currently adhere to that requirement?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

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

Statement in reply to Parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.130 for 02.08.2024 regarding Pension Amount under NSAP

(a) : National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), launched in the year 1995, is a 100% funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), implemented as a social security programme with uniform rate of assistance across all States/UTs. Initially, NSAP had three components viz., national old age pension scheme, national family benefit scheme and national maternity benefit scheme. In 2000, Annapurna scheme was introduced to provide 10 kg of food grains per month to senior citizens who are not receiving old age pension. In 2001, the national maternity benefit scheme was transferred to the Department of Family Welfare.

In 2007, the eligibility criteria of “destitution” was replaced by BPL and the rate of assistance under old age pension scheme was increased from ₹75/- to ₹200/-. In 2009, two new pension schemes, namely, national widow pension scheme and national disability pension scheme were introduced. In the year 2011, assistance under old age was increased to ₹500/- for persons of 80 years and above. 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. The rate of assistance under national family benefit scheme was also increased from ₹10000/- to ₹20000/- (one time assistance) during the same year.

(b): As per the guidelines of NSAP, States/UTs have been strongly urged to provide additional amount, at least an equivalent amount to the assistance provided by the Central Government so that the beneficiaries can get a decent level of assistance. At present, the States/UTs are adding Top-up amounts ranging from Rs.50/- to Rs.3200/- per month per beneficiaries under NSAP schemes, resulting in an average monthly pension of around ₹1,000/- in most of the States/UTs.

(c): As per the guidelines, as far as possible, States/ UTs should ensure monthly disbursement of pension to the beneficiaries. Details of States/ UTs disbursing the pension assistance on monthly basis is given in **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 130 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING PENSION AMOUNT UNDER NSAP

List of States/UTs disbursing pension under NSAP on monthly basis

| S. No. | State/UT |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Andaman and Nicobar Islands |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 3 | Assam |
| 4 | Bihar |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh |
| 6 | Delhi |
| 7 | Goa |
| 8 | Gujarat |
| 9 | Haryana |
| 10 | Jammu And Kashmir |
| 11 | Jharkhand |
| 12 | Karnataka |
| 13 | Kerala |
| 14 | Ladakh |
| 15 | Madhya Pradesh |
| 16 | Maharashtra |
| 17 | Odisha |
| 18 | Puducherry |
| 19 | Rajasthan |
| 20 | Sikkim |
| 21 | Tamil Nadu |
| 22 | Telangana |
| 23 | Tripura |
| 24 | West Bengal |

Source: NIC, DoRD
