

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1416
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/12/2024

INCREASE IN CENTRAL CONTRIBUTION TO OLD-AGE PENSIONS UNDER NSAP

1416 SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that its contribution to old-age pension under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) has remained stagnant at ₹200 per month for over 15 years, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any reviews or studies to assess the adequacy of this amount in meeting the basic needs of beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal currently under consideration to increase the central contribution under NSAP, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)

(a): The central pension under the Old Age Pension Scheme of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is ₹ 200/- per month per beneficiary from 60 to 79 years of age and ₹ 500/- per month per beneficiary from 80 years onwards. As per guidelines of NSAP, the States/UTs are encouraged to provide top-up amount of at least an equivalent amount to the assistance provided by the Central Government so that the beneficiaries could get a decent level of assistance. At present, the States/UTs are adding top-up amount ranging from ₹ 50 to ₹ 3000 per month per beneficiary under Old age Pension Scheme of NSAP, resulting in an average monthly pension of around ₹1,000/- in most of the States/UTs.

(b) & (c): The Government conducted various Studies such as Task Force under Dr. Mihir Shah (2012), Expert Group under Sumit Bose (2016), evaluation studies by NITI Aayog (2020) and Department of Rural Development (2021), to *inter alia* assess the adequacy of assistance provided under different schemes of NSAP in meeting basic needs of beneficiaries. Based on the recommendations of such studies, a proposal for revamping of NSAP viz. modified eligibility criteria, enhanced rate of assistance etc. was prepared. The Government considered the revision proposal while deciding the continuation of the NSAP for the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-26) and approved the programme in its present form up to the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-26).

(d): No such proposal is under consideration in the Government.
