

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1245
ANSWERED ON – 10/12/2025

SCHEMES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

1245 # SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is implementing any welfare schemes for senior citizens including healthcare, financial assistance and care homes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and utilized under these schemes during the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing an umbrella scheme, namely **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)** for the welfare of senior citizens across the country. The brief of the scheme is at **Annexure-I**.

Further, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had also launched a "National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly" (NPHCE) in 2010-11 to address various health related issues of elderly people. The details of NPHCE are at **Annexure-II**.

Also, the Ministry of Rural Development implements National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a social security programme for the most vulnerable persons of society living below poverty line, both in rural and urban areas irrespective of the category of the beneficiaries. The details of NSAP are at **Annexure-III**.

(c) The details of funds allocated, utilized under AVYAY scheme during the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	Funds allocated (Rs in crores)	Funds released (Rs in crores)
2022-23	262.33	239.87
2023-24	324.45	210.48
2024-25	413.77	408.14

The details of funds approved under NPHCE during the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	Funds approved (Rs in crores)
2022-23	64.94
2023-24	125.25
2024-25	81.42

The details of funds released under the component of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) during the last three years are as under:

Financial Year	Funds released (Rs in crores)
2022-23	6827.55
2023-24	6778.50
2024-25	6843.95

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 1245 to be answered on 10.12.2025

Details of components under AVYAY scheme are as follows-

- i. **IPSrC(Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens)-** Under IPSrC, grant-in-aid is provided to the organisations for maintenance of senior citizen homes (Sr.CH), continuous care homes (CCH), mobile medicare units (MMU) and physiotherapy clinics. The objective of the scheme is to improve the quality of life of the Senior Citizens, especially indigent senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing.
- ii. **SAPSrC (State Action Plan for Senior Citizens)-** The Government of India perceives a major and critical role of all the States/ UTs Governments in welfare of senior citizens. Each State/UT is expected to plan taking into account their local considerations and frame their own State Action Plans for the welfare of their senior citizens. Under SAPSrC, the Ministry releases funds to the States/UTs for implementation of their action plans. SAPSrC is being implemented since FY 2019-20.
- iii. **RVY (Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana)-** The scheme aims for providing Physical Aids and Assisted Living Devices for Senior Citizens below poverty line and with the family income not exceed to Rs. 15,000/-per month. The scheme is being implemented since 2017.
- iv. **Elderline-** The National Helpline for Sr Citizens (14567) is to generate awareness about the Act, schemes & programmes being executed by different Central & State Governments and to provide platform to redress grievances of Sr Citizens across the country.
- v. **Training of Geriatric Care Givers-** The main objective is to bridge the gap in supply and increasing demand in the field of geriatric caregivers so as to provide more professional services to the senior citizens and also to create a cadre of professional care givers in the field of geriatrics. Considering the acute shortage of Geriatric Caregivers and the increasing demand in the market, the Department has decided to trained 1,00,000 trainees in the field of Geriatric Care givers in order to meet the demand.
- vi. **Other Initiatives for Senior Citizens-** In order to solve the problems of healthy and productive ageing, several initiatives are being done across the country. The proposed initiatives are aimed at involving the elders in building up knowledge which can be useful for the society as a whole.
- vii. **Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE)-** The main objective is to promote out-of-the-box and innovative solutions for the commonly faced problems, innovative start-ups would be identified and encouraged for developing products, processes and services for the welfare of the elderly.

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The NPHCE is an articulation of the International and national commitments of the Government as envisaged under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) adopted by the Government of India in 1999 & Section 20 of "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007" dealing with provisions for medical care of Senior Citizens. The objective of NPHCE is to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality long-term, comprehensive and dedicated healthcare services to the elderly.

Components of the Program:

1. National Health Mission (NHM) Component: Primary & Secondary care service delivery through District Hospitals (DH), Community Health Centres (CHC), Primary Health Centres (PHC), Sub-Centre/Health & Wellness Centres.
2. Tertiary Component: ('Rashtriya Varisth Jan Swasthya Yojana') These services are being provided through Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs) located at 17 Medical colleges and two National Centres of Aging (NCAs) one in AIIMS, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi and another in Madras Medical College, Chennai.
3. Research: A Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) project:-The LASI is a nationally representative survey of older persons in India is being undertaken through International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai.

Package of Services: The program has two components for provision of geriatric health care services i.e: district/ sub-district level component and tertiary level component. The package of services provided to elderly people at both levels is as given below.

Sub Centre:

- a. **Health Education** related to healthy ageing, environmental modifications, nutritional requirements, life styles and behavioural changes.
- b. **Special attention to home bound / bedridden** elderly persons and provide training to the family health care providers in looking after the disabled elderly persons.

Primary Health Centre: Weekly geriatric clinic by a trained Medical Officer (MO). Services would include: conducting **health assessment** of the elderly persons and simple investigation including blood sugar, etc.

Community Health Centre

- a. **Biweekly geriatric Clinic and Rehabilitation services** to be arranged by trained staff and rehabilitation worker at CHCs.
- b. **Domiciliary visits** by the rehabilitation worker will be undertaken for bed-ridden elderly and counseling to family members for care such patients.

District Hospitals:

- a. Dedicated Geriatric OPD services, In-door admissions through 10 bedded geriatric ward, laboratory investigations and rehabilitation services.
- b. Provide services for the elderly patients referred by the CHCs/PHCs etc. and refer severe cases to tertiary level hospitals.

Tertiary Level

(A) Regional Geriatric Centers:

- a. Provide **tertiary level services for complicated/serious Geriatric Cases** referred from Medical Colleges, District Hospitals and below.
- b. Conduct **post graduate courses in Geriatric Medicine**. Each RGC to produce 2 post graduates (MD geriatrics) every year.
- c. Providing **training** to the trainers of identified District hospitals and medical colleges
- d. Developing/and updating Training modules, guidelines and **IEC materials**.
- e. **Research** on specific elderly diseases.

(B) National Center of Ageing

- a. High level tertiary care with **multidisciplinary clinical services** involving medical and surgical disciplines.
- b. **Specialised OPD care** in various clinical disciplines. Special clinics like memory clinic, fall and syncope clinic, frail elderly clinic, aids and appliances clinic, implants and cosmetic clinic.
- c. **Day care centre for:** Investigations, rehabilitation, respite care, dementia care ,continence care
- d. **In patient care for:** Intensive care, acute rehabilitation, diagnostic and therapeutic services, long term rehabilitation service.
- e. **Human resources development in all sub-specialties of Geriatric Medicine**

Developing **evidence based treatment protocols** for Geriatric diseases prevalent in the country.

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Under the NSAP programme, the old aged, widows, and disabled persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and fulfilling eligibility criteria prescribed in the NSAP guidelines, are provided financial assistance, in form of pension, ranging from Rs.200/- to Rs.500/- p.m. and in the case of death of the breadwinner of such family, lump sum assistance of Rs. 20,000/- is given to the bereaved family. One of the components under the scheme is Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme under which assistance of ₹ 200/- per month to persons in the age group of 60-79 years is provided and ₹ 500/- per month to persons of 80 years and above is provided.
