

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -457
ANSWERED ON – 03/12/2025

FINANCIAL AND FOOD SECURITY OF SENIOR CITIZENS

457. DR DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government propose to introduce a new policy to ensure financial and food security, health care and other needs of older persons and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government proposes to amend the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2019 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether initiatives have been launched to encourage innovative start-ups to develop products, processes and services for the welfare of the elderly, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government plans an advocacy campaign to sensitise the public to the concerns and conditions of older persons, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) & (b) The National Policy on Older Persons, 1999 envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, healthcare, shelter, protection and other needs of older persons to improve the quality of their lives. With the passage of time there is a need to bring in a new policy. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 11.12.2019. The Bill lapsed after dissolution of Lok Sabha.

(c) The Government has launched the Senior care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) under Atal Vayo Abhyudhaya Yojana to support start-ups and entrepreneurs who develop innovative, products and services for elderly care. The Scheme provides equity support of upto Rs. 1.00 Crore to selected start-ups to develop the "silver economy" with a focus on health, housing, finance and technology for seniors. 09 Start-ups have been sanctioned under the SAGE Scheme till date.

(d) To create awareness, information is made available on the website of the Ministry, e-Anudaan portal, social media and dissemination through the State Governments. Further, Regional Resource Training Centres (RRTCs) conduct workshops and capacity building programs to generate awareness about various measures being taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for welfare of senior citizens. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment celebrates the International Day of Older Persons on 1st October every year to generate awareness across the country about the importance and needs of the senior citizens.
