

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1826
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2018**

AIDS AND ASSISTIVE LIVING DEVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

1826. SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched a scheme to provide senior citizens living below the poverty line with walking sticks, spectacles, hearing aids and other such assistive devices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of beneficiaries under the scheme, State-wise;
- (c) whether atrocities on senior citizens are on the rise in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the corrective steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government has already introduced a National Policy for Senior Citizens and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)' with an objective to provide senior citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from age related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. Under the Scheme, assisted living devices such as walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/ crutches, tripods/ quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures, spectacles are provided free of cost to the beneficiary senior citizens. The Scheme is being implemented by the "Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)", a Public Sector Undertaking under this Ministry. The devices are distributed in the camp mode to the identified beneficiaries. The National launch of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana was held at Nellore (A.P.) on 1st April, 2017. A total of 188 districts from all States/UTs have been selected for Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana distribution camps. As on date, 21 Distribution Camps have been organized at district level distributing 58,325 aids and assistive devices to 31,304 Senior Citizens. The State-wise number of beneficiaries is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c): As per the information provided by Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB):-

1. The specific information is not maintained by the Bureau.
2. However, a total of 18,714, 20,532 and 21,410 cases reported under total crime against senior citizen during 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively showing an increasing trend with an increase of 9.7% in 2015 over 2014 and 4.3% in 2016 over 2015.
3. State/UT-wise and Crime head-wise cases registered under crime against senior citizen during 2014-2016 is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.
4. State/UT-wise cases charge-sheeted, cases convicted, persons arrested, persons charge-sheeted and persons convicted under crime against senior citizen during 2014-2016 is enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

(d): As per the information provided by Ministry of Home Affairs, "Police' and 'Public Order' are State Subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens rest primarily with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws.

Ministry of Home Affairs has issued two detailed advisories dated 27.03.2008 and 30.8.2013 to all State Governments/UTs advising them to take immediate measures to ensure safety and security for elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence against old persons through initiatives such as identification of senior citizens, sensitization of police personnel regarding safety, security of older persons, regular visit of the beat staff; setting up of toll free senior citizen helpline; setting up of senior citizen security cell; verification of domestic helps, drivers etc."

The Government has enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act, 2007 which inter-alia mandates that the State Government shall prescribe a comprehensive action plan for providing protection of life and property of Senior Citizens.

(e): The existing National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment of the Government to ensure the well being of the older persons. Keeping in view the changing demographic pattern, socio-economic needs of the senior citizens, social value system and advancement in the field of science and technology over the last decade, a new National Policy for Senior Citizens is under finalization to replace the NPOP-1999.
