

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3293
ANSWERED ON 21/03/2023

AMENDMENTS IN PENSION SCHEMES

3293. SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the beneficiaries covered under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) pension schemes for old aged, widows and disabled persons living below poverty line in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating to make further amendments in the pension schemes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to make pension schemes more inclusive?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) The details of beneficiaries covered under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) pension schemes for old aged, widows and disabled persons living below poverty line (BPL) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last three years i.e. 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 are as under:

Year	No. of beneficiaries			
	Old Aged	Widow	Disabled	Total
2020-21	590	3	1	594
2021-22	590	3	2	595
2022-23	587	3	2	592

(b) to (d): The assistance under NSAP pension schemes is sanctioned up to the scheme-wise, State/ UT-wise cap of beneficiaries under the scheme and the pension schemes have achieved almost 100% saturation in all States/ UTs. The States/UTs have the option to provide pension from their own sources in case there are more eligible beneficiaries over and above the State/UT cap under the NSAP pension schemes.

While considering the continuation of the NSAP for the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-26), the revision in the eligibility criteria, coverage and rate of assistance under the scheme was considered by the Government. However, the Government has approved continuation of NSAP scheme in its present form. Therefore, no proposal in regard to making amendments in pension schemes is under consideration at present.