

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 66
ANSWERED ON 25/07/2023**

CENTRALLY SPONSORED PENSION SCHEMES

***66. SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the current centrally sponsored pension schemes for the old aged, widows and disabled persons in the rural areas of the country along with the structure thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase the pension amount being provided to such beneficiaries thereunder and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to identify the beneficiaries and prevent the irregularities during payment of pension to persons under these schemes?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)**

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *66 for 25.07.2023 raised by Shri Haji Fazlur Rehman

(a) National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a 100% centrally funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the most vulnerable sections of our society living below poverty line (BPL), both in rural and urban areas. It comprises of three pension schemes namely, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) for old aged, widows and disabled persons, respectively. The structure of these pension schemes covering details of eligibility criteria and financial assistance under each scheme is as under:

- i. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): Under IGNOAPS, the old age persons of age group 60-79 years belonging to BPL households are provided old age pension of Rs.200 per month. The pension amount is increased to Rs.500 per month on attaining the age of 80 years.**
- ii. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): Under IGNWPS, widows in age group of 40-79 years belonging to BPL households are provided widow pension of Rs.300 per month. The pension amount is increased to Rs.500 per month on attaining the age of 80 years.**
- iii. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS): Under IGNDPS, disabled persons in age group of 18-79 years belonging to BPL households are provided disability pension of Rs.300 per month. The pension amount is increased to Rs.500 per month on attaining the age of 80 years.**

(b) There is no proposal to increase the pension amount under NSAP at present.

(c) Under NSAP, identification of beneficiaries, sanction and disbursement of benefits to them is done by the respective State/ UT. States/ UTs have been requested to ensure wide and continuous publicity about the entitlements under the schemes of NSAP and procedure for claiming them. In order to foster transparency and swiftness, NSAP pension schemes were included under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes in December 2014. States/ UTs have also been advised to adopt Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB) system to ensure prompt disbursement of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.
