

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2510
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2021**

SCHEMES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

†2510. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to protect the rights of senior citizens in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the status of the implementation of Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to introduce a new national policy for senior citizens; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether any time limit has been fixed in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)**

(a) and (b): Yes, sir. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 (MWPSA) recognises the right of the senior citizens to live a life of dignity. The Act provides for financial security to the parents and senior citizens and can award maintenance to the parents if they are not properly cared for. The Act also has provision of punishment with imprisonment upto three months or fine of up to Rs. 5000/- or both for children or relatives, who abandon senior citizens. All the States/UTs have notified the MWPSA Act, 2007 and have taken consequential steps like appointment of Maintenance officers, Maintenance Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals.

(c) & (d): 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, socioeconomic 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 National Policy for Older Persons 1999.
