

O.I.H.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2476
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2024**

UNIFORM PENSION

**2476 SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SMT. LOVELY ANAND:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide uniform pension of at least Rs. 1000 per month to all the citizens above 60 years of age in the country on the lines of Bihar, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government also proposes to cover the persons with more than 50 per cent disability in the said scheme; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)**

(a): Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an old age pension scheme under National Social Assistance Programme, a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme, as a social security programme across the country including Bihar, for old age persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL). Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.200/- per month to persons in the age group of 60-79 years and Rs. 500/- per month to persons of 80 years and above is provided. While considering the continuation of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) schemes for the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-26), the revision in beneficiary coverage and rate of assistance under the schemes was considered by the Government. However, considering the available financial space, the Government has approved continuation of NSAP schemes in its present form.

As per the guidelines of NSAP, the State/UTs are encouraged to provide top-up amounts of at least an equivalent amount to the assistance provided by the Central Government so that the beneficiaries could get a decent level of assistance. At present, the States/UTs are adding top-up amounts ranging from Rs.50 to Rs.3200 per month per beneficiary under NSAP schemes, resulting in an average monthly pension of around Rs.1,000/- in most of the States/UTs.

(b) & (c): In 2009, the National Disability Pension Scheme, was introduced under NSAP to extend the benefit of the scheme among vulnerable disabled persons with a provision to define the disability in terms of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. Since then, the benchmark disability criteria under the scheme continued to be 80% or more of one or more disabilities.
