

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4109
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2025**

NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

4109. SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to provide pension to all elderlies in the country especially to those who are not availing government pension after retirement, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) the manner in which the Government planning to cover such elderly who are not a beneficiary under any prevalent pension scheme due to any reasons or exclusion criterion;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the current old age pension rates are sufficient for an elderly person to meet their very basic and minimum livelihood requirements;**
- (d) the current pension rate under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) to destitute persons above the age of 65 years;**
- (e) whether the Government is also planning to increase the pension under NSAP; and**
- (f) the last revision of old age pension took place under NSAP?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): At present, no proposal to provide pension to all elderlies in the country is under consideration in the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c): The central pension under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is ₹ 200/- per month per beneficiary in the age group of 60-79 years and ₹ 500/- per month per beneficiary from 80 years onwards for persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL). As per NSAP guidelines, the States/UTs are encouraged to

provide top-up amount 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 amount ranging from ₹ 50 to ₹ 3000 per month per beneficiary under IGNOAPS, resulting in an average monthly pension of around ₹ 1,000/- in most of the States/UTs. The Government considered the revision proposal while deciding the continuation of the NSAP for the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-26) and approved the programme in its present form up to the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-26).

(d): The central pension under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is ₹200/- per month per beneficiary from 60 to 79 years of age under Old Age Pension Scheme, ₹ 300/- per month per beneficiary from 40 to 79 years under Widow Pension Scheme and ₹ 300/- per month per beneficiary from 18 to 79 years under Disability Pension Scheme. Rate of assistance for beneficiary above 80 years is ₹500/- per month in all three pension schemes of NSAP. At present, the States/UTs are adding top-up amount ranging from ₹ 50 to ₹ 3716 per month per beneficiary under NSAP pension schemes resulting in an average monthly pension of around ₹ 1,000/- in most of the States/UTs.

(e): At present, no such proposal is under consideration with the Government.

(f): Old age pension was increased from ₹ 75 to ₹ 200 in the year 2007. Old age pension was further increased to ₹ 500 for beneficiaries of 80 years and above in the year 2011.
