GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 591
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2026

OLD AGE PENSIONS

591. Shri NeerajMaurya:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is aware of the case related to the embezzlement of an amount of approximately 1.23 crore in the form of widow/old age pensions by showing living persons as dead through fake death certificates in the Bareilly/Aonla area of Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the number of cases of fake beneficiaries under pension schemes have come to light in the country during the last five years and the amount that has been recovered from them;

(c)   the steps that have been taken to make the mutual integration of death registration, Aadhaar verification, bank account and pension portal mandatory in order to prevent such type of fraud; and

(d)   whether the Government considering implementing a standard operating procedure to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a):   As per information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, 51 cases have been identified under the State Government's Widow Pension Scheme wherein benefits were availed on the basis of forged death certificates. In these cases, an amount of ₹18.02 lakh was disbursed as pension and not Rs. 1.23 crore as reported. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has stopped the pension in these cases and has initiated the process for recovery of the disbursed pension amount.

(b): As per NSAP guidelines, the responsibility for implementation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), including identification and verification of beneficiaries, disbursement and stoppage of pensions, and annual verification, rests with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. Instances of fake/duplicate beneficiaries under pension schemes are detected by States/UTs primarily through Aadhaar-based verification, de-duplication exercises, and periodic field verification and if identified, corrective action including discontinuation of pension and recovery of excess payments as per the provisions, is undertaken by the concerned State/UT Governments.

Further, the Ministry monitors/reviews the implementation of NSAP schemes through Performance Review Committee (PRC) meetings, quarterly review meetings, visits by Area Officers. Further, review/monitoring of the scheme is done by District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHA) at the district level.

(c) & (d): In order to prevent fraud, pilferage of resources and ensure transparency, a web-based pension payment portal, NSAP-PPS (National Social Assistance Programme-Pension Payment System) has been operationalized as an end-to-end digital tool for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode disbursal of pension through PFMS. More than 90% pension disbursal under NSAP is through DBT mode. An Aadhaar-based registration system has been implemented wherein whenever a new registration is initiated, de-duplication is carried out in the database through demographic authentication using the beneficiary's Aadhaar number. At present, approximately 91% of beneficiaries have their Aadhaar numbers seeded in the NSAP-PPS portal. Additionally, a Digital Life Certification (DLC) mobile application has been developed for Aadhaar-based biometric verification of beneficiaries.

Government is following and further strengthening procedures for beneficiary verification and periodic re-validation under NSAP-PPS portal, including Aadhaar-based checks, DBT through PFMS, and verification by States/UTs. These measures, along with regular monitoring/review, are aimed at preventing the recurrence of such incidents.

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