

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 867
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.03.2016**

867. WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to provide basic needs to older persons particularly food, shelter and healthcare;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to introduce schemes to build and strengthen intergenerational relationship between children/youth and older persons and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for providing Institutional and non-institutional care/service to older persons;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposal from Kerala for welfare and protection of older persons; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

- (a) This Ministry is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) under which grants-in-aid are given for running and maintenance of inter-alia, Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units etc. The main objective of the Scheme is to improve the quality of life of older persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities etc.
- (b) Section-19 of the National Policy on Older Persons, 1999 provides for strengthening integration between generations, facilitate two ways flows and interactions, and strengthen bonds between the young and the old. It believes in the development of a social support system, informal as well as formal, so that the capacity of families to take care of older persons is strengthened.

Under the scheme of IPOP, there is a provision for financial assistance to the NGOs for conducting Programmes for sensitization of school/college students and Awareness Generation Programme on issues concerning senior citizens for strengthening the intergenerational bonding in the youth, children and older persons.

Besides, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as the nodal Ministry for the welfare of senior citizens observes the 1st October as the International Day of Older Persons every year at national level with a series of programmes which include organizing an inter-generational Walkathon at the India Gate New Delhi and also in the State Capitals. State Governments are also requested to observe this occasion in befitting manner right up to the Block levels, to showcase the Government's concern for senior citizens and its commitment towards them with the aim of strengthening their legitimate place in the society and for

providing an opportunity to the younger generations to understand the contribution of the elderly in building of the society.

The National Institute of Social Defence, an autonomous organization of this Ministry, also conducted 66 sensitization programmes on inter-generational gap for school teachers/students/counsellors etc., during 2014-15.

(c) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, keeping in view the recommendations made in the "National Policy on Older Persons" as well as the State's obligation under the "Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens' Act, 2007", the Ministry had launched the "National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly" (NPHCE) during 2010-11 to address various health related problems of elderly people. The major objectives of the NPHCE are establishment of Department of Geriatrics in identified Medical Institutions as Regional Geriatric Centre for different regions of the country and to provide dedicated health facilities in District Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs and Sub Centre levels through State Health Society. Following facilities are being provided under the programme:

- i. Geriatric OPD, 30-bedded Geriatric Ward for in-patient care etc. at Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs)
- ii. Geriatric OPD and 10-bedded Geriatric Ward at District Hospitals
- iii. Bi-weekly Geriatric Clinic at Community Health Centres (CHCs)
- iv. Weekly Geriatric Clinics at Primary Health Centres (PHCs)
- v. Provision of Aids and Appliances at Sub-Centres.

Further, under the IPOP Scheme, institutional care/service is provided to older persons through the projects of Day Care Centres for taking care of older persons with Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. The State Government of Kerala has forwarded 5 new project proposals for the year 2014-15 under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for older Persons, out of which three project proposals have been approved by the Screening Committee in its meeting held on 30th December, 2015 and 4th January, 2016. New project proposals for the year 2015-16 are still being received from the State Governments.

During the year 2015-16, an amount of Rs 16.62 lakhs has been released till date for four new/ongoing projects of the NGOs under the Scheme.
