

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3869
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026**

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

3869. SHRI YADUVEER WADIYAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of recent reports highlighting an emerging “ageing crisis” in India, including rising healthcare costs, inadequate pension and social security coverage, and a growing digital divide affecting senior citizens, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any assessment has been undertaken in the last three years to evaluate the adequacy of the National Action Plan for Senior Citizens (NAPSC), Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) and related schemes in meeting the needs of the elderly, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of senior citizens covered under major Central schemes for pensions, healthcare and social care during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen senior-care infrastructure and geriatric healthcare and to ensure a life of dignity for the elderly?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) & (d): Yes Sir. As per the report of Technical Group on Population Projections, constituted by the National Commission on Population, the population of the elderly citizens between 2011 and 2036, is projected to increase from 10 crores in 2011 to 23 crores in 2036 - an increase in their share to the total population from 8.4 to 14.9 percent.

Recognizing the growing needs of the elderly population and to mitigate the hardships being faced by them, the Government of India implements various schemes as under :-

I.) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing an umbrella scheme, namely, Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) for the welfare of the senior citizens across the country. The scheme has 07 components. The details of AVYAY scheme components are attached at **Annexure-I**.

II.) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), under which health insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh is provided to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

Further, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare implements the National Programme for Healthcare of the Elderly (NPHCE) Scheme to ensure health and well-being of the senior citizens. The salient features of this program are: (i) Community based primary Healthcare approach, (ii) Dedicated service at PHC (Primary Health Centre) /CHC (Community Health Centre) level, (iii) dedicated facilities at district hospitals with 10 bedded wards,(iv) Strengthening of Regional Geriatric Centers to provide dedicated tertiary level medical facilities for the elderly , (v) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) using mass media, folk media and other communication channels and (vi) Continuous monitoring and independent evaluation of the programme and research in Geriatrics and implementation of NPHCE (vii) The tertiary component of the Rashtriya Varishth Jan Swasthya Yojana in 2016-17 under which 17 Regional Geriatric Centres and 2 National Centres of Ageing have been established.

(III). The Ministry of Rural Development implements the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) under which, eligible senior citizens receive pension of ₹200 per month (60–79 years) and ₹500 per month (80+ years) as the central share, with States/UTs providing additional top-ups, thus benefitting a large rural population.

(b): The Ministry conducts periodic assessments of the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) Scheme (earlier known as the National Action Plan for Senior Citizens (NAPSrC) to review its implementation and measure its outcomes. For this purpose, discussions are held with all the stakeholders to assess the emerging needs and challenges being faced by the senior citizens. Also, third-party evaluation of the scheme is conducted before continuing the scheme during the new financial cycle. The findings and recommendations of these evaluations are used to review the implementation of the scheme, identify emerging needs of senior citizens. Based on these findings, steps are taken to mitigate the hardships being faced by the senior citizens.

(c): The details of senior citizens covered under major Central schemes for pensions, healthcare and social care during the last three years, State-wise, are given at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure referred to in point (a) of the reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 3968 to be replied on 11.08.2026

Details of components of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) are as under :-

- i. **Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)**- Grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental/ Voluntary Organizations for running and maintenance of Senior Citizens Homes (old age homes), Continuous Care Homes, etc. Facilities like shelter, nutrition, Medicare and entertainments are provided free of cost to indigent senior citizens.
- ii. **State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC)** – Under State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC), the State Government implements the State Action Plan for welfare of senior citizens. Grant in-aid is provided to States/ UTs for activities like awareness generation, sensitization, cataract surgeries and State specific activities.
- iii. **Elderline: National Helpline for Senior Citizens (NHSC)**- The National Helpline on Toll free number 14567 namely ‘Elderline’ was launched on 01.10.2021 for grievance redressal of Senior Citizens and to generate awareness about the Act, schemes & programmes being executed by Central & State Governments.
- iv. **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**-The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the scheme component of ‘Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)’ with the objective to provide to senior citizens, with the monthly income of not more than Rs. 15000/- and suffering from age-related disabilities/infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. The scheme was launched on 01.04.2017. The Scheme is implemented through the ‘Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)’, (a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the M/oSJE) as the sole implementing Agency.
- v. **Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE)**- SAGE scheme Component is to promote out-of-the-box and innovative solutions for the commonly faced problems. Under this scheme component, innovative start-ups are identified and encouraged for developing products, processes and services for the welfare of the elderly. The selection of the start-ups is made through a transparent process and the funds are provided as equity, subject to the Government investment not exceeding 49 % of the total equity of the Firm.
- vi. **Training of Geriatric Care Givers**- The main objective of this scheme component is to bridge the gap in supply and increasing demand in the field of geriatric caregivers so as to provide more professional services to the senior citizens and also to create a cadre of professional givers in the field of geriatrics.
- vii. **Other Initiatives for Senior Citizens**: In order to solve the problems of healthy and productive ageing, several initiatives are implemented across the country.

Annexure referred in reply to parts (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3869 for answer on 11.08.2026

Statewise details of beneficiaries under AVYAY, NSAP and NPHCE during last three years (2023-24 to 2025-26)

S.No.	States/UTs	AVYAY	NSAP	NPHCE
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16	585	185218
2	Andhra Pradesh	59959	663736	22544997
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1602	5893	94291
4	Assam	84591	695997	3350017
5	Bihar	55930	3157256	2493456
6	Chandigarh	1021	2378	375033
7	Chhattisgarh	4432	644429	5090344
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	3111	8754	327295
9	Delhi	12209	7308	4540645
10	Goa	3212	620548	801432
11	Gujarat	10479	259865	14229271
12	Haryana	41944	93178	4728205
13	Himachal Pradesh	3149	130298	3236894
14	Jammu and Kashmir	10215	985094	2141469
15	Jharkhand	17669	899422	1317214
16	Karnataka	28431	458813	18736028
17	Kerala	6860	6486	51252080
18	Ladakh	574	155	207858
19	Lakshadweep	528	1575079	60721
20	Madhya Pradesh	32792	1122920	7732434
21	Maharashtra	106981	55891	27756901
22	Manipur	34955	55734	325083
23	Meghalaya	3227	24524	386994
24	Mizoram	3072	45941	442043
25	Nagaland	9096	113824	211034
26	Odisha	69426	1418631	15171586
27	Pondicherry	4462	17713	2124041
28	Punjab	18316	112955	4953946
29	Rajasthan	25959	823972	9181508
30	Sikkim	1264	16928	341878
31	Tamil Nadu	96560	1282504	37492654
32	Telangana	35123	480315	5272449
33	Tripura	6453	135232	915839
34	Uttar Pradesh	130629	4722613	12447384
35	Uttarakhand	7791	204557	1147063
36	West Bengal	68418	1281159	21348574
Grand Total		1000456	22130687	282963879
