

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

**STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*399  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.01.2019**

**ASSISTED LIVING DEVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

**†\*399. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI PATIL:**

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

- (a) the objective of the scheme under which aids and assisted living devices are provided to the senior citizens living below poverty line along with the total budgetary allocation for this scheme;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that there is lack of awareness among the senior citizens regarding the said scheme and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken so far by the Government to increase awareness regarding the said scheme?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**(SHRI THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT)**

- (a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. † \*  
399 to be answered on 08.01.2019**

(a): The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)' with an objective to provide senior citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from age related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. Under the Scheme, aids assisted living devices viz. walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/ crutches, tripods/ quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures and spectacles are distributed free of cost to the eligible senior citizens beneficiaries. The Scheme is entirely funded from the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund (SCWF), established vide Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund Rules, 2016 notified on 18.03.2016. For the Financial Year 2018-19, an amount of Rs. 106.5 Cr. has been allocated from SCWF for Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana.

(b) & (c): The Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana was launched at Nellore (A.P.) on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017. At present, a total of 318 districts from all State/UTs Administration have been selected for the implementation of RVY. The Scheme is being implemented through 'Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)', (a Public Sector Undertaking under this Ministry) as the sole implementing Agency. Beneficiaries in each district are identified by a team of doctors/technicians/other professionals to assess their needs and to prescribe the requisite Assisted Living Devices in the Assessment Camps organized by ALIMCO in collaboration with the respective District Administration. The devices are then distributed to the identified beneficiaries in the camp mode. Further, regular communications are made from this Ministry to respective States/UTs Governments for extending cooperation to ALIMCO in organizing these Camps. So far, a total of 70 distribution camps have been organized nationwide providing 1,64,255 physical aids to 69,516 Senior Citizens beneficiaries in BPL Category.

\*\*\*\*\*