

# Joint Action Committee for Organising Senior Citizens' National Protest Day on August 16, 2010

Address : 8-2-333/14a, Road No. 3, Banjara Hills Hyderabad-500 034,A.P., INDIA,  
Tel. : 040-2354 2719, Fax : 040-2354 8409, Mobile : 0905 200 4913, email : [rnmital@gmail.com](mailto:rnmital@gmail.com) / [apscccon@gmail.com](mailto:apscccon@gmail.com)

## Coordinating Committee

<b>R.N.Mital</b> <b>Co-ordinator</b> President - APSCCON Sr.VP - AISC CON rnmital@gmail.com	<b>Dr. P. Vyasamoorthy</b> <b>Joint Co-ordinator</b> President – SSS; VP - APSCCON vyasamoorthy@gmail.com	<b>Prof. V. Vishweswariah</b> <b>General Secretary</b> President - AoSC, Hyderabad Sec. Gen. – APSCCON viswam_1932@yahoo.com	<b>V. Nageswar Rao</b> <b>Jt. Secretary</b> President – Sr. Cn. Welfare Asscn., Madhavapuri nageshwararao_v@yahoo.com	<b>Dr. P. Pothamsetty -</b> <b>Treasurer</b> Gen. Sec.- AoSC [Hyd], Treasurer – APSCCON Tel: 09440532962
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KIT – 1

Sent on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Contains 4 documents

Sent to all participating SCAs, Federations, State level JAC members etc

1. Covering letter – 1 page
2. Document 1 Appeal to all Senior Citizens – 3 pages including State-wise List of JAC members
3. Document 2 - One Page Handbill
4. Document 3 – Appeal to important people – media, newspapers, MP / MLAs etc (4 pages)
5. Document 4 – Pakistan Draft Bill (one page)

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## Sponsors

### [National & State Level]

1] All India Senior Citizens' Confederation [AISCCON],  
2]National Alliance of Senior Citizens Associations of India [NASCAI] 3] Bharat Pensioners' Samaj (BPS) 4] RREWAS, 5] Respect Age International (RAI), 6] Indian Federation of Ageing (InFA), 7] Indian Association of Retired Persons [IARP], 8] Andhra Pradesh Senior Citizens' Confederation, 9] Federation of Senior Citizens' of Maharashtra [FESCOM],10] Federation of Senior Citizens of UP [FESCUP], 11] Federaion of AP Senior Citizens' Organisations [FAPSCO],12] Kerala Federation of Senior Citizens' Associations,13] Karnataka Senior Citizens Federation, 14] Tamil Nadu Senior Citizens' Confederation, 15] Silver Innings Foundation[Mumbai], 16] Delhi Federation of Senior Citizens' Associations,17] Gujrat Federation of Senior Citizens, 18]Prantiya Varishtha Nagrik Mahasangh [MP], 19] Varishtha Nagrik Sansthan [Rajasthan] 20] Senior Citizens Council of Assam [21] All India Bank Retirees Federation [22] Nightingales Medical Trust [23] Kerala Sr.Citizens' Forum [24] Help Age India [25] Anugruha [26] Dignity Foundation [27] Harmony Silver Foundation

## Advisors

**ShivaswarupAgarwal**SecGen  
Intnational Chinmaya Mission

**Dr. S.D. Gokhale -**  
**President India, ILC,**  
**Pune**

**Dr. PV Ramamurti**  
**Emeritus Prof, SV**  
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**Dr. D.Jamuna**  
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**Dr. Indira Jai Prakash**  
**Prof. Bangalore University**

**Dr. Shiva Raju**  
**Prof. Tata Inst of Social Sc**

**.Dr. Sugan Bhatia, Advisor**  
**-AISCCON**

**Senior Citizens, in spite of their number, collective wisdom & experience will continue to be ignored and marginalized, unless they unite – Kofi Annan**

[List of State wise Members of the Joint Action Committee on the reverse of this page]

Dear friends,

June 20, 2010

## **Reg.: Senior Citizens' National Protest Day**

We are enclosing the following four documents in preparation for the Senior Citizens' National Protest Day [SCNPD],

1] Appeal to all Senior Citizens to support and participate in the SCNPD on Aug 16. [Document 1] We request you to get it Xeroxed and distribute it among the Senior Citizens in your area. Kindly ensure that all Associations of Senior Citizens, Pensioners' Associations, Walkers Clubs get this Appeal.

2] One page Hand bill [Document 2] – This has been prepared for mass circulation among Senior Citizens and sympathizers. If required kindly get it translated into local language and get few thousand copies printed for distribution.

3] Appeal to important people [Document 3] – It is suggested that during the next one and a half months we should meet MLA's, MP's, MLC's, important Politicians, Media Executives and other important people to inform them of the problems of Senior Citizens and try to gain their support. If possible try to arrange a programme on TV in which the concerns of Senior Citizens are highlighted.

4] Facilities for Senior Citizens in Pakistan [Document-4] - Our neighbour is trying to do lot more for Senior Citizens. A Bill in this regard is already before the Parliament Its details are also attached for your information.

## **Preparations –**

1] We have to cultivate the media. Many of us are very forceful writers. It is suggested that we start writing to News papers about our problems, misery caused due to unaffordable health care costs, sufferings due to delay in implementation of the Maintenance Act and topics such as the impact of the demographic shift, Elder Abuse etc,etc. Pl also write to "letters to editor" column. We must articulate our problems as widely as possible if we want to stir the conscience of our Rulers.

2] Please already check in your area the availability of Black Band which will be worn on the left hand sleeve. It should be of 1.5 to 2 inches width and about 12 inches [30cm] in length. It is likely to cost around 70np

**We will be sending you shortly Memorandum of Demands, Press Notes and drafts for banners and placards.**

Warm regards

R. N.Mital  
Co-ordinator

Dr. P. Vyasamoorthy  
Joint co-ordinator

Prof. V.Vishweswariah  
General Secretary

For more information, visit website [scnpd.postereous.com](http://scnpd.postereous.com)

**State wise Members of JAC for Organizing Senior Citizens National Protest Day – 16<sup>th</sup> Augst 2010**

Andaman Nikobar	Paras Ram	President, Senior Citizens Forum
Andhra Pradesh	V. Gopala Rao	<b>Organising Secretary FAPSCO-</b>
	Dr. G.S. Varadachari	<b>President Veteran Journalists' Association, AP</b>
	PVGK Murty	Chairman, Sneha Sandhya, Visakhapatnam; Honorary President, APSCCON
	Prof. JP Venkateswarlu	President Senior Citizens' Welfare Association, Guntur Associate President APSCCON
	Somasekhara Rao	Vice President [South] Bharat Pensioners' Samaj
Assam	B.B.Sarmacharjee	Gen. Secretary, Senior Citizens' Council, Assam
Bihar	Murali Dhar Singh	President, Senior Citizens Association, Dalmianagar
	Dinesh Chandra Sinha	Secretary, Variya Nagrik Sangh, Patna
Changugarh	Kedar Nath ingh	Gen. Secretary, Active Senior Citizens Association, Purnea
	Brig. Keshav Chandra	President, Chandigarh Senior Citizens' Association,
Madhya Pradesh Chattisgarh	Dr. Sajjansingh	President U3A
	N.K.Lal	Secretary, Jayeshtaha Nagrik Manch, Bhilai
Dadar, Nagar Haveli	B.N.Parmar	President Senior Citizens' Association, Silvassa
Daman	I.M.Desai	President Senior Citizens' Council
Delhi	J.R.Gupta	President - Delhi Federation of Senior Citizens' Associations
	Sh. Shyam Sunder	Secretary General, Bharat Pensioners' Samaj
	S.S.Ramachandran	Secretary General, AICCPA
Goa	M.K.Patil	President, State Retd Employees' Association, Goa
Gujarat	Amritbhai Modh	Vice President - AISCCON
	Kanti Bhai Patel	President, Federation of Senior Citizens, Gujarat
	Yogesh Deputy	Vice President, Federation of Senior Citizens, Surat
	Ambu Bhai Patel	President, Age Care Foundations, Vadodara
	Balubhai V. Lad	President, Navasari Senior Citizens Club
Haryana	Er.S.C. Maheshwari	General Secretary, RREWA, Gurgaon
Himachal Prades	Des Raj Sharma	President, HP Association of Senior Citizens Forums
Jammu Kashmir	Habibullah Dev	President, Kashmir Senior Citizens Welfare Council, Srinagar
Karnataka	Smt. Mandakini Desai.	Vice President AISCCON
	B.M.Bhoopalapur	President - Association Of Senior Citizens, Dharwad
	Rangaswami	Secretary General, Fed of Senior Citizens Forums of Karnataka
	K.L. Renu	Co-ordinator C.B.R. Network
Kerala	SN Nayar	President, Kerala State Federation of Senior Citizens
	PKB Nayar	Director, Center for Gerontological Studies, Trivandrum
Madhya Pradesh	S.K. Saraswat	President Prantiya Varishta Nagrik Bhopal
	S.C.Sharma	Organising Secretary AISCCON
	Dr.Manohar Bhale	Vice President AISCCON
	Daulat Ram Patel	President, Pensioners' Association Apex Body
Maharashtra	Dr. S.P. Kinjwadekar	President All India Senior Citizens' Confederation
	D.N.Chapke	Secretary General - AISCCON
	Raman Bhai Shah	Immediate Past President - AISCCON
	Anant G. Gholap	President - FESCOM
	Anil P. Kaskhedikar	Gen. Secretary, FESCOM
	S.K.Mahapatra	President - Retired Insurance Employees Union
	Sailsh Mishra	Founder President , Silver Innings
	M.V. Ruparelia	Activist - Senior Citizens Welfare
Orissa	Er..K. Mohanty	Gen Secretary, Age Care Associates, Bhuvneswar
Pondecherry	SV Iyer	President, Senior Citizens Welfare Association
Punjab	Daljitsingh Grewal	Exec President, Federation of Senior Citizens of Punjab
	Kaushalkishore Jain	President Varishta Nagrik Sansthan
Rajasthan	Satyawrat Samwedi	Secretary General, Varishtha Nagrik Sansthan
	Rajsekharan Doraswami	President - Tamilnadu Federation of Senior Citizens Associations
Tamilnadu	Capt. Dr. M. Singharaja	Secretary - Senior Citizens' Bureau
	Dr. T.K. Nair	President, Centre for the Welfare of the Aged
	Dr. Balambal	Past President, The Probus Club of Chennai
	B.B.Dixit	President - FESCUP
Uttar Pradesh	G.C.Gupta	Secretary General - Respect Age International
	R.C.Goyal	President Varishta Nagrik Parishad, Roorkee
Uttarkhand	U.K. Shukla	President, Senior Citizens Forum, Haridwar
	Keshab Chandra Sarkar	Gen. Secretary, New Barrackpore Senior Citizens Association
West Bengal	Mihir Kiran Pathak	Gen. Secretary, Salt Lake Senior Citizens Association
	Aditya Kumar Roy	President, Welfare Senior Citizens Association, Kolkata

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## WAKE UP SENIOR CITIZENS AND ACT NATIONAL PROTEST DAY AUGUST 16, 2010 APPEAL

Today we are more than 10 Crores out of a population of around 113Crores in our Country, According to HelpAge 66% of them can not afford two square meals a .day, 90% of them have no social or health security, 73% are illiterate and can only survive by doing physical labour, and 37% are lonely cursing their age.

Our Government signed the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2002 when it committed to halve the old age poverty by 2015 but the reverse seems to be happening in our Country. According to another estimate while the population of BPL category has gone down below 22% , that in case of the Older Persons has exceeded 66%. This segment thus is becoming larger and larger at the same time is getting poorer and poorer. The poorest among the poor are Senior Citizens.

All this is happening because of the gross neglect by our rulers of our concerns and problems You will agree with the fact that we elders have waited for years on end to get attention from our rulers but all that we have received is indifference towards our issues. While we are keen to play our role in the development of our Country and the activities for the welfare of community, we also demand that our concerns must be addressed. Just look at these glaring facts,

- National Policy on Older Persons announced more than 11 years ago has been accepted partially [*not implemented*] by only 7 States/UT's and the remaining 28 have even not bothered about it. No State has fully implemented it.
- The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act has been operationalised only by 3 States out of 35 States/UT's though it was passed by the Parliament almost 3 years ago.
- Though mandated in the NPOP only 5 States provide some sort of health cover to BPL category, the APL Senior Citizens are still left high and dry even in these States, without any social and health security whatsoever
- The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme is implemented fully by only a few States. Rest are disbursing much less than the recommended Rs 400 per month. In most States it has become an instrument to dole out political favour. It would have made substantial difference, if implemented truthfully in the life of 65+ Senior Citizens particularly the 70% living in villages.

We can not tolerate this any further. It is planned that we all Senior Citizens in our Country will observe a Protest Day on August 16, 2010 to let the Governments know that we can not be taken for granted any longer, and steps have to be taken to solve our problems. This programme is supported by around twenty seven National and State level Senior Citizens' Organizations. It will be observed in every State, District

and

and Taluka of our Country in a dignified manner in keeping with the prestige of Senior Citizens.

**The suggested programme is as follows,**

- Meet the Press, MP's, MLA's, MLC's, politicians and other eminent citizens in your area, acquaint them with the sufferings of Senior Citizens and our programme to observe August 16 as the National Protest Day as a last resort to make the Government conscious of their obligations towards the ageing population of our Country.
- We will wear a black band for the whole day
- Walk in a silent procession to the seat of Authority in the area and to the place for Dharna or Human Chain [optional]
- Hold a joint meeting with other Senior Citizens' Organisations highlighting our problems and the indifferent and cold response of the Government, followed by submission of a Memorandum. Above activity will be preceded by a press meet and media briefing.

The common National Demands will be the important part of the Memorandum. **The National demands are as follows,**

1] Health Insurance cover for all Senior Citizens without restrictions due to entry and exit age and pre-existing health condition with modest premium which does not increase with age, fully subsidised for BPL and graded sharing for others. **[Aarogyasri of AP meets these requirements, only it does not cover the APL Senior Citizens]**

2] Very early implementation of the Maintenance & Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act in all States

3] Immediate steps to be taken to fully implement the existing NPOP with budgetary support and not to postpone it till the reviewed Policy is ready.

4] Truthful implementation of the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. Increase minimum Pension to 500/- pm and minimum age of beneficiary to be reduced to 60 from present 65.

5] All residents of Old Age Homes to be covered under State subsidised Health Insurance, including those who are terminally ill. Those who are eligible should be given Old Age Pension.

6] Minimum of 50% concession in State Bus and Railway fares for all Senior Citizens

7] a) Implement the rights of the elderly citizens as enunciated in the Constitution of India and establish a unified governance structure to implement the rights. A preferred structure at Central level - Ministry for Older Persons along with National Commission for Older Persons,

b) Immediate declaration of State Policy on Senior Citizens by every State and formation of State Councils and Commissionerates for Senior Citizens by all State Governments.

8]. Provision of Multi-service Centres / day Care centres in each city, town and large village with facilities of recreation, games and news papers etc.

9]. Nomination of 2 representatives of Senior Citizens on the Rajya Sabha and on Vidhan Parishad of every State and adequate representation in official advisory and surveillance committees.

10]. Speedy, time-bound disposal of legal cases and other matters relating to Senior Citizens.

11] Early setting up of the promised National Institutes of Research on Aging and development of affordable Assistive devices and courses in Medical Colleges in Gerontology and Geriatrics.

12] A special savings scheme for Senior citizens should be launched allowing at least 2% higher interest with inbuilt compensation mechanism for increase in cost of living and reduction in interest rate

**What you are requested to do,**

1] Pl. get in contact with other Senior Citizens Associations, Pensioners' Associations, Walkers Associations and other NGO's engaged in the Welfare of Senior Citizens and explain to them this programme of Protest Day. Organize joint meetings with them and discuss the need for observing it.

**2] Send us the E Mail addresses of Senior Citizens in your area**

**3] Kindly get this Appeal Xeroxed and widely circulated among your Constituent Forums and their members. It will be desirable to get it translated into local language distributed particularly in rural areas**

We will shortly send to you Drafts for Memorandum, Press notes and Banners and Placards  
**Issued by Joint Action Committee of Senior Citizens for organizing the National Protest Day**

Visit Website [scnpd.postereous.com](http://scnpd.postereous.com)

## **Jago! Senior Citizens, Jago!!**

### **Observe Senior Citizens' National Protest Day on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

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For several decades, Governments at the center and in the states have been neglecting the problems of senior citizens. Just look at the plight of elders and gross indifference of our Rulers

- Out of 10 crores of older persons, 66% go hungry every day; 90% have no social or health security; 37% are lonely and neglected.
- National Policy on Older Persons – Announced in 1999 – Not a single state has fully implemented this policy so far
- Only 3 states out of 35 have effectively implemented the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act – though three years have passed.
- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme implemented by only a few States
- There is no comprehensive medical or health care for old people even after 60 years

Several sincere and serious attempts to get Governments involved and to listen to our problems and demands have failed. **Should we take it lying down any more?** No, we should make our needs and demands known to public and pressure the Rulers to take notice. Therefore, a **Protest Day**, on an all India basis, will be observed on August 16. Nearly thirty State and National level organizations connected with senior citizens from all over India are taking part in this massive movement. There will be protest activities in every city, town, district and Panchayat to highlight the indifferent attitude of the Governments to our concerns and to press our following major demands,

- Health insurance for all Senior Citizens without any age related restriction or that due to pre existing health condition.
- Immediate implementation of the Maintenance & Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act all over the Country.
- Cover all BPL inmates of Old Age Homes including the terminally ill under fully subsidized health insurance and pay those eligible the Old Age Pension.
- Truthful and honest implementation of the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme all over the Country and payment of minimum of Rs 500/- pension.
- 50% concession in Railway and State Bus fares for all Senior Citizens.
- Exclusive Ministry and National Commission for Older Persons at the Centre.

All senior citizens are requested to actively participate in observing the Protest Day to voice our above demands.

What have you to do on the **Protest Day**?

- Wear a black band through out that day
- Participate in any rally, procession, walkathon, human chain, signature campaign, public meeting, submission of memorandum etc that may be organized by your local Senior Citizens' or Pensioners' Association. Actively involve Press and Media.

The entire exercise will be peaceful, dignified and devoid of any violence – keeping in line with the expectations of the public from senior citizens. Please contact your local Senior Citizens'/Pensioners' Association and get to know the programme for the Day

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June 20, 2010

## APPEAL

**(ON BEHALF OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF INDIA)**

Respected

The under mentioned appeal is addressed to you to create awareness among the educated, intellectual, and responsible citizens about the plight of vast majority of elders in our country, in matters of social and health security, financial status and living conditions largely caused due to utter neglect by the Government.

We solicit your sympathetic understanding and action in whatever manner possible and to do your bit to influence the rulers for the alleviation of the suffering of sizable part of our country's population who have given their services for 30 to 40 years to the society and are now languishing in the evening of their life.

## SOME DISTRESSING FACTS

Today Senior Citizens constitute more than 10 crores out of about 113 crores in our Country out of which, according to a survey, 66% can not afford two square meals a day, 90% have no social or health security, 73% are illiterate and forced to earn their living through physical labour and 37% are lonely cursing their age. Most of them have landed in such a situation because their children or the Government did not care to look after them. Even the plight of middle class elders is getting worse day by day as their real income out of their meager savings is getting dwindled due to inflation. With the result, they are pushed down to the below poverty line segment. The poorest among the poor are senior citizens

## WHAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS DONE

We are grateful to the Union Government for bringing out a land mark document called

“ National Policy on Older Persons” [NPOP] as early as 1999 and passed an Act entitled “The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens’ Act” in 2007 [MWPSAct]. The State Governments were expected to implement them by passing necessary enactments. The above policy document and the Act are pragmatic, exhaustive, comprehensive and well intended. If implemented sincerely, they would have brought smiles in the lives of less fortunate senior citizens. The above policy exhaustively covered the areas of financial security, health care, nutrition, social welfare, protecting the life and property of senior citizens and made out meticulous action plan for implementation and monitoring.

## THEN WHAT HAPPENED...

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**State wise Members of JAC for Organizing Senior Citizens National Protest Day – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Andaman Nikobar	Paras Ram	President, Senior Citizens Forum
Andhra Pradesh	V. Gopala Rao	<b>Organising Secretary FAPSCO-</b>
	Dr. G.S. Varadachari	<b>President Veteran Journalists' Association, AP</b>
	PVGK Murty	Chairman, Sneha Sandhya, Visakhapatnam; Honorary President, APSCCON
	Prof. JP Venkateswarlu	President Senior Citizens' Welfare Association, Guntur Associate President APSCCON
	Somasekhara Rao	Vice President [South] Bharat Pensioners' Samaj
Assam	B.B.Sarmacharjee	Gen. Secretary, Senior Citizens' Council, Assam
Bihar	Murali Dhar Singh	President, Senior Citizens Association, Dalmianagar
	Dinesh Chandra Sinha	Secretary, Variya Nagrik Sangh, Patna
Changugarih	Kedar Nath ingh	Gen. Secretary, Active Senior Citizens Association, Purnea
	Brig. Keshav Chandra	President, Chandigarh Senior Citizens' Association,
Madhya Pradesh Chattisgarh	Dr. Sajjansingh	President U3A
	N.K.Lal	Secretary, Jayeshtaha Nagrik Manch, Bhilai
Dadar, Nagar Haveli	B.N.Parmar	President Senior Citizens' Association, Silvassa
Daman	I.M.Desai	President Senior Citizens' Council
Delhi	J.R.Gupta	President - Delhi Federation of Senior Citizens' Associations
	Sh. Shyam Sunder	Secretary General, Bharat Pensioners' Samaj
	S.S.Ramachandran	Secretary General, AICCPA
Goa	M.K.Patil	President, State Retd Employees' Association, Goa
Gujarat	Amrithbhai Modh	Vice President - AISCCON
	Kanti Bhai Patel	President, Federation of Senior Citizens, Gujarat
	Yogesh Deputy	Vice President, Federation of Senior Citizens, Surat
	Ambu Bhai Patel	President, Age Care Foundations, Vadodara
	Balubhai V. Lad	President, Navasari Senior Citizens Club
Haryana	Er.S.C. Maheshwari	General Secretary, RREWA, Gurgaon
Himachal Prades	Des Raj Sharma	President, HP Association of Senior Citizens Forums
Jammu Kashmir	Habibullah Dev	President, Kashmir Senior Citizens Welfare Council, Srinagar
Karnataka	Smt. Mandakini Desai.	Vice President AISCCON
	B.M.Bhoopalapur	President - Association Of Senior Citizens, Dharwad
	Rangaswami	Secretary General, Fed of Senior Citizens Forums of Karnataka
	K.L. Renu	Co-ordinator C.B.R. Network
Kerala	SN Nayar	President, Kerala State Federation of Senior Citizens
	PKB Nayar	Director, Center for Gerontological Studies, Trivandrum
Madhya Pradesh	S.K. Saraswat	President Prantiya Varishta Nagrik Bhopal
	S.C.Sharma	Organising Secretary AISCCON
	Dr.Manohar Bhale	Vice President AISCCON
	Daulat Ram Patel	President, Pensioners' Association Apex Body
Maharashtra	Dr. S.P. Kinjwadekar	President All India Senior Citizens' Confederation
	D.N.Chapke	Secretary General - AISCCON
	Raman Bhai Shah	Immediate Past President - AISCCON
	Anant G. Gholap	President - FESCOM
	Anil P. Kaskhedikar	Gen. Secretary, FESCOM
	S.K.Mahapatra	President - Retired Insurance Employees Union
	Sailsh Mishra	Founder President , Silver Innings
	M.V. Ruparelia	Activist - Senior Citizens Welfare
Orissa	Er..K. Mohanty	Gen Secretary, Age Care Associates, Bhuvneswar
Pondecherry	SV Iyer	President, Senior Citizens Welfare Association
Punjab	Daljitsingh Grewal	Exec President, Federation of Senior Citizens of Punjab
Rajasthan	Kaushalkishore Jain	President Varishta Nagrik Sansthan
	Satyawrat Samwedi	Secretary General, Varishtha Nagrik Sansthan
Tamilnadu	Rajsekharan Doraswami	President - Tamilnadu Federation of Senior Citizens Associations
	Capt. Dr. M. Singharaja	Secretary - Senior Citizens' Bureau
	Dr. T.K. Nair	President, Centre for the Welfare of the Aged
	Dr. Balambal	Past President, The Probus Club of Chennai
Uttar Pradesh	B.B.Dixit	President - FESCUP
	G.C.Gupta	Secretary General - Respect Age International
Uttarkhand	R.C.Goyal	President Varishta Nagrik Parishad, Roorkee
	U.K. Shukla	President, Senior Citizens Forum, Haridwar
West Bengal	Keshab Chandra Sarkar	Gen. Secretary, New Barrackpore Senior Citizens Association
	Mihir Kiran Pathak	Gen. Secretary, Salt Lake Senior Citizens Association
	Aditya Kumar Roy	President, Welfare Senior Citizens Association, Kolkata

But Alas! Everything remained on paper when it came to implementation, 28 States and Union Territories did not even respond to the NPOP document even after more than 11 years. In fact the very few states which accepted the policy document, that is NPOP, paid mere lip sympathy and did not bother to implement it .

The State Governments remained indifferent toward implementing of the MWPSC Act. Only 3 States out of 35 States/UT's have operationalised it though three years have passed since it was enacted by the Parliament.

The result, the vast majority of elder persons continue to languish in poverty, ill health, insecurity, deprivation and hunger.

**MORE EXAMPLES OF APATHY on Part of THE GOVERNMENTS**

1. *The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme* provides for payment to below poverty line [BPL] 65+ Senior Citizens of Rs.400/- (Rs. 200 by Centre and Rs.200 by State Government). Very few states implemented it fully and as on now about 50% of eligible poor are still not covered by the above scheme. In some states only the Central Govt share of Rs.200 is being paid that too through the local leaders who pass on only around Rs 150 to the beneficiaries. Often 65+ women Senior Citizens are denied this pension if husband is receiving it which is wrong.
2. The Maintenance of Parents Act of 2007 has not been adopted by most of the States and in the few States where it has been notified, it has not been implemented due to one reason or the other, with the result the elders continue to be neglected by their children and are unable to get relief through the existing Laws.
3. Though mandated in NPOP only 5 States provide some sort of health cover to BPL category, the above poverty line [APL] Senior Citizens are still left high and dry even in these States, without any social or health security whatsoever.

**WHERE DOES THE FAULT LIE ?**

The problem really lies with the attitude of the Rulers who do not have the political will to look into the problems and concerns of the ageing society and the bureaucrats who seem to believe that they need not bother about the weak, poor, and unorganized elderly persons as they are not needed for pursuing their ambitious careers=

**WHAT ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS?** They are few and simple and driven by considerations of social justice only,

*Firstly* it must be recognized that the Senior Citizens of present generation are those who worked during the low cost economy era in our Country when the earnings and therefore the savings were meagre compared with present levels. Even surviving with those meagre savings and galloping inflation is a challenge, hence we are looking for concessions in essential services and higher return on our investments with inbuilt compensation mechanism for increase in cost of living and dwindling interest rates etc.

*Secondly* being old we are prone to age related health problems, but the cost of health care is so high that it is unaffordable for most. We therefore, demand that all Senior Citizens should be covered under health insurance without any restrictions relating to age and existing diseases, the premium for which should be fully subsidized for BPL category and graded sharing for others.

*Moreover*, majority of Senior Citizens live in villages. Most of them are miserable as in most cases their children have migrated to cities to earn more money leaving their elders there to fend for themselves. We have therefore, asked for truthful and honest implementation of the existing National Old Age Pension Scheme in all States.

The wellbeing of particularly BPL inmates of Old Age Homes should be the National responsibility. They should be covered under fully subsidized health insurance including those who are terminally ill and the eligibles paid the Old Age Pension.

*Finally* since the experience of last decade shows that the present Government structure is ineffective in protecting our rights, we demand that at Central level exclusive Ministry along with National Commission for Older Persons and at State level an exclusive Ministry with separate Commissionerate for Senior Citizens should be established.

**We thank you for your patient reading of this Appeal. We once again request you to kindly do whatever is possible by influencing the Government to act swiftly and sincerely on the policy of elder persons.**

We elders have waited for years on end to get attention from our Rulers but all that we have received is indifference towards our concerns. While we are keen to play our role in the development of our Country and the activities for the welfare of the community, we also demand that our concerns must be addressed.

**We have therefore, decided to observe August 16, 2010 as the Protest Day to at least stir up the conscience of our Rulers and the society. We solicit your kind support and co-operation.**

**Issued by the Joint Action Committee of Senior Citizens constituted to organize  
National Protest Day on August 16, 2010**

Visit Website for more information

[scnpd.postereous.com](http://scnpd.postereous.com) or <http://groups.google.co.in/groups/scnpd>

## **Senior Citizens in Pakistan: Provisions in the proposed bill**

Pakistan has a draft Senior Citizens Welfare Bill introduced in Parliament. This is yet to become an Act. Public have been pressing for its early enactment as a law. Salient provisions of the bill are described briefly here.

1. The Bill provides for the establishment of Pakistan Senior Citizens Welfare Council. The chief patron is the Prime Minister and the Minister of Social Welfare is the Chairman. This ten member team (expandable) shall meet twice a year with a quorum of 33% of total members to liaise with federal state and local governments in all matters relating to senior citizens.

2. Several financial concessions are recommended in this bill such as the following:

- 25% in Road transport
- 50% in Trains
- 20% in flights
- 20% in ships
- 10% in all public utility bills like water electricity phone etc
- 20% in public / private marriage halls
- 50% in Income Tax where yearly income is less than Rs 4 Lakhs

3. Other provisions:

- a. senior citizens will have special counters In public offices;
- b. Speedy disposal of cases;
- c. Financial assistance for marriage of daughters
- d. Free medical treatment in separate wards
- e. Even treatment abroad in special cases
- f. Haj travel
- g. Wheel chairs / stools in prayer halls
- h. Representation in local committees

4. Most importantly, a monthly stipend of Rs 3000/- in deserving cases as may be prescribed

5. The bill also provides for an initial fund with one billion rupees that will be managed by the Council. This fund will be augmented by grants from state and federal govt, donations etc.