

Adopt 'time bank' model for the elderly: NHRC panel

Neeraj.Chauhan
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A panel of experts, who are part of NHRC's core group on disability and elderly persons, has recommended that India should adopt the "time bank" scheme, launched by Switzerland, to take care of senior citizens who are living alone without any support from their family.

It has also asked the Centre to increase its contribution to the pension scheme for elderly persons from Rs 200 to Rs 2,000 per month; appoint a nodal police officer to deal with issues of senior citizens living alone; cover them under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and utilise corporate India's CSR funds for constructing old age homes.

Under the 'time bank' scheme, people save time and volunteer to take care of the elderly who need help and the number of hours they spend time with or take care of senior citizens are deposited into their personal account of social security system. When the volunteer himself gets old and needs someone for help, he/she could use the 'time bank' and a volunteer is assigned to take care of him/her.

Apart from Switzerland, the UK is also following the 'time bank' scheme while Singapore is considering implementing it. The NHRC core group has suggested that ministry of social justice and empowerment might consider



Old-age pensioners stage a protest in Bhopal recently. The NHRC panel has asked the Centre to increase its contribution to the elderly pension scheme to Rs 2,000 per month from the now Rs 200

developing a similar scheme here at least on a pilot basis.

There are approximately 10 crore senior citizens in India out of which around 1.5 crore live alone, according to government figures. Out of these 1.5 crore elderly, only 20 lakh are covered by organisations working in this field while rest are left to fend for themselves. Their state lends urgency to the need to build over 800 old age homes across the country.

The panel suggested nominating a police official in every police station as the 'nodal officer' to deal with issues concerning elderly in the area. "As in the case of Juvenile Justice Act 2015, wherein there is a provision of designating a child welfare officer in every police station to look into the issues of violation of child rights, on the same lines a cop should be nominated for the elderly."

CSR funds, it added, could be utilised for construction of

old age homes in the states. During the meeting, Mathew Cherian of HelpAge India also suggested that the Centre's contribution under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) should be enhanced to Rs 2,000.

However, government has expressed reservations over revising pensions saying it will have huge financial implications. Sudhakar Shukla, chief economic advisor-II in ministry of rural development, told NHRC that "presently there are around 3 crore beneficiaries out of which 2.4 crore may be senior citizens. Rs 200 per month is being provided to elderly persons in the age group of 69-79 years and Rs 500 per month to those above 80 years belonging to BPL categories.

Shukla argued that increasing their pension even from Rs 200 to Rs 400 would require a budgetary increase from Rs 9,975 crore to Rs 40,000 crore.



Hindustan, Delhi

Saturday, 6th October 2018; Page: 6

Width: 24.67 cms; Height: 16.05 cms; a4r; ID: 24.2018-10-06.73

13 साल से फ्लैट में बंद वृद्धा को छुड़ाया

नई दिल्ली | कार्यालय संवाददाता

13 साल से फार्मा अपार्टमेंट के एक कमरे में बंद 68 वर्षीय महिला को गुरुवार को पड़ोसी की शिकायत पर पुलिस ने मुक्त कराया। वह मानसिक रूप से कमजोर है। भाइयों की उपेक्षा की शिकार होने के कारण उसका इलाज नहीं हो पाया, जिससे उसकी मानसिक स्थिति और खराब हो गई।

मधु विहार पुलिस ने कोर्ट के आदेश पर उसे इहबास में भर्ती कराया है। 68 वर्षीय किरणलता फार्मा अपार्टमेंट में रहती हैं। वह जब 12वीं में थी तो टाइफाइड के कारण मानसिक रूप से

कार्रवाई

- बीमारी के कारण मानसिक रूप से कमजोर हो गई
- माता-पिता की मौत के बाद भाइयों ने इलाज नहीं कराया

बीमार हो गई। किरणलता के माता पिता की मौत के बाद उसके भाइयों ने उसे अपार्टमेंट के एक फ्लैट में बंद कर दिया। इसकी शिकायत एक पड़ोसी ने मानवाधिकार आयोग में की थी।

आयोग के निर्देश पर किरण को फ्लैट में अकेले रखा गया। साथ ही फ्लैट की एक चाबी किरण और दूसरी

परिजनों को दी गई। साथ ही उसका इलाज कराने को कहा गया, लेकिन इलाज नहीं कराया गया।

खिड़की से खाना देते थे : परिवार के लोग दरवाजे में बनी खिड़की से खाना देकर चले जाते थे। किरण परेशान होने पर चीखती थीं। इस बीच गुरुवार को सोसायटी की एक महिला जब वहां से गुजरीं तो उसकी चीख सुनी। महिला ने पुलिस को सूचना दी। इसके बाद एएसआई अजय एवं महिला कांस्टेबल सुनीता मौके पर पहुंची। उन्होंने किरण को इहबास अस्पताल के प्रशासन के कहने पर कोर्ट में पेश किया, फिर दोबारा इलाज के लिए इहबास में भर्ती कराया।