

Social Welfare sitting on 1,50,000 pension cases

Cases of widows, disabled pending since years
SATURDAY, 09 MAY 2015

GUL OWAIS
354 VIEWS



SOCIAL WELFARE SITTING ON 1,50,000 PENSION CASES

Srinagar: Authorities have failed to clear more than one lakh pension cases under various schemes, pushing prospective beneficiaries to penury.

According to official data of Directorate of Social Welfare, a copy which lies with Kashmir Monitor, authorities have failed to clear One lakh and fifty four thousand three hundred seventy nine widows, old age and disabled pension

cases, which are pending since years, reveals a departmental data.

According to the data, 13051 widow pension cases and 29,439 old age pension cases are pending under Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) with the government since years together.

The data further reads that under ISSS scheme, there are 12926 cases of handicapped persons pending with the administration.

The government had announced various schemes for the widows, old age and disabled persons.

However, Mumtaz Ganaie of Habba Kadal, a disabled person said that despite announcing various schemes, government is reluctant to give them relief as under ISSS scheme they are still getting Rs 400 per month, adding, "There are many more categories under this scheme and the rate for other categories are Rs 200. How come a person can survive his livelihood with this meager amount?"

The data further reads that under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), there are 98963 cases of old age, widows and disabled pension cases pending with the state authorities, adding, "Since more than two years, the files are pending with the planning department."

Official sources told The Kashmir Monitor, "There are thousands of files pending in the department and will take more than eight months to clear. In various cases, the applicants even have died and their files are still biting the dust in the department." Meanwhile, the record reveals that government had taken up the NSAP pending files matter with Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India under letter no. SWD/Plg/227/2014 dated 18-02-2015.

Nonetheless, after passing of more than two months, the follow up of this matter is yet to be taken.

According to the reports, Jammu and Kashmir is the only state where more than 150000 widow, old age and disabled pension cases are pending since years.

Admitting the facts that the huge number of cases are pending since years, Minister for Social Welfare, Bali Baghat said, "Almost Rs 86 crores have not been given to the needy people under these schemes and Omar led government have left these persons of god's mercy as they didn't even pursued the report to the higher ups for its redressal."

Baghat said that they have approved those pending cases and all the cases will be redressed in upcoming months