

What further measures can be taken?

- Increasing the monthly pension of elderly to minimum of Rs 2,000 per month.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Housing for the aged, particularly the aged poor, must be a priority.
- Assisted living facilities for indigent elderly, particularly those with age-related issues like dementia, needs policy focus.
- More tax benefits, or at least removing tax on deposit interest for seniors.
- Enhancing the geriatric care health infrastructure especially in rural area.
- Allocation of special budget for elderly population at both levels.
- Providing entertainment facilities like libraries and clubs at panchayat level.
- Appreciations for the contributions of elderlies at village level.

Conclusion:

Social security is the concurrent responsibility of the central and state governments as, mandated under Indian constitution i.e, Well-being of senior citizens – Article 41 in particular and 46 in general of Indian constitution. In this regard, National Policy on Senior Citizen, 2011 was framed.

For the welfare and care for the older persons, we must focus on the protection of already existing social support systems/traditional social institutions such as family and kinship, neighborhood bonding, community bonding and community participation must be revived and kins should show sensitivity towards elderly citizens.

15. One Nation One Ration Card System is an important citizen centric reform. Discuss the need for introduction of one nation- one ration card scheme in India. Elucidate its benefits and challenges that lie ahead in its implementation.

Approach

1. *Provide a brief introduction about the one nation- one ration card scheme. (40 words)*
2. *Describe what is the need for the scheme in India. (70 words)*
3. *Discuss both the benefits (Eliminate exclusion, Remove monopolies and lessen corruption, Peripheral benefits, etc.) and challenges of the scheme (Lack of ePoS machines, Difference In ration benefits offered, Lack of data on Inter-State migration, etc.) (100 words)*
4. *Conclude appropriately. (40 words)*

Hints:

- Recently, the Government has announced that it is planning to introduce the One nation-One ration card scheme from next year. It involves the creation of a central repository of NFSA beneficiaries and ration cards, which will integrate the existing databases maintained by States, Union Territories and the Centre. It will undertake Aadhaar seeding as the unique biometric ID will be used to authenticate and track the usage of ration by beneficiaries anywhere in the country. Further, all fair price shops would be equipped with electronic point-of-sale machines (ePoS), replacing the old method of manual record-keeping of transactions with a digital real-time record.

Need For One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Scheme

- India runs the world's largest food security programme, distributing more than 600 lakh tonnes of subsidised food grain to more than 81 crore beneficiaries every year. This is done through a vast network of more than five lakh ration or fair price shops, where beneficiaries with a ration card can get their share of allotment.