

Appendix-C**Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana' (RVY): A scheme for providing physical Aids and Assisted living devices to Senior Citizens:****Background**

1.1 As per the Census figures of 2011, the population of senior citizens in India is 10.38 crore. More than 70% of the population of senior citizens live in rural areas of the country. A sizeable percentage (5.2%) of the senior citizens suffers from some sort of disabilities related to old age. Projections indicate that the number of elderly population will increase to around 173 million by 2026.

1.2 The Central Government proposed a Central Sector Scheme to be put in place to provide Physical aids and Assisted Living Devices for Such Senior Citizens suffering from age related disabilities/infirmities, who belong to BPL category in Budget Speech- 2015-16. Accordingly, a scheme named 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana' (RVY) was formulated for bringing such senior citizens into active life and to build an age-friendly society by providing them with devices to maintain near normalcy in mobility, communication and independence. The scheme was launched on 1st April, 2017.

1.3 However, currently, there are a large number of Senior Citizen belonging to BPL category who are deprived of the benefits for the disability/infirmity mentioned in **para 4** because of their inability to find funds to purchase them. In the light of the Government's growing stress on helping the Senior Citizens and enabling them to improve their Social & Economical life, it has been decided to continue the RVY and modify it in such a way that it becomes more user friendly so that the needy people are not deprived of aids & appliances. **Aims and Objectives**

2.1 The Central Sector Scheme aims at providing senior citizens, with the eligibility criteria mentioned in para-9, suffering from any of the age related disability/infirmity mentioned in para-4, with such assisted-living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. The assistive devices shall be of high quality and conforming to the standards laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards, wherever applicable.

3. Scope of the Scheme

The beneficiaries of the Scheme shall include Senior Citizens suffering from any of the age related infirmities as indicated in **para 4** of the Scheme.

4. The Scheme aims to address following types of disability/infirmity:-

- (i) Low Vision;
- (ii) Hearing impairment;
- (iii) Loss of teeth; and
- (iv) Locomotor disability.

5. Types of Physical Aids and Assisted-Living Devices to be provided under the Scheme

The Scheme proposes to provide the following Aids and Assisted-Living Devices to eligible elderly beneficiaries, depending upon their physical impairment:-

(a) Generic Items:-

1. Walking sticks
2. Elbow crutches
3. Walkers / Crutches
4. Tripods / Quadpods
5. Hearing Aids
6. Artificial Dentures
7. Spectacles

(b) Special Items:

1. Wheelchairs
2. Wheel Chairs with Commode
3. Chair/Stool with Commode
4. Silicon Foam Cushion
5. Knee Brace
6. Spinal Support
7. Cervical Collar
8. Lumbosacral Belt (LS)
9. Walker/Roalator with Brakes
10. Walking Stick with Seat
11. Foot Care Kit:-
 - i.). Flexi Gel Socks
 - ii). Socks Cusion Sandal
 - iii). Silicon Insole (Complete Foot/Ankle)
 - iv). Insole with Pressure Point Relief.

6. Extent of Support

- 6.1 The Scheme will be fully financed (100% funded) by the Central Government from 'Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund'.
- 6.2 The extent of support will comprise of free of cost distribution of “Physical Aids and Assisted-Living Devices” commensurate with the extent of disability/infirmity that is manifested among the eligible senior citizens. In case of multiple disabilities/infirmities that is manifested among the eligible senior citizens. In case of multiple disabilities/infirmities, the assistive devices will be given in respect of each disability/impairment that is manifested in the same person. The Implementing Agency shall provide one year free maintenance of the aids & assisted living devices supplied by them. The maximum cost of generic devices

will not be exceed Rs. 15000/-per beneficiary and for special items Rs. 20000/- per beneficiary. The monetary limit of the devices shall be as under:-

Type of Assistive Device	Monetary Limit
(a) Generic Items:- Walking sticks, Elbow crutches, Walkers / Crutches, Tripods / Quadpods, Hearing Aids, Artificial Dentures, Spectacles	Cost as notified by ALIMCO or actuals whichever is less.
(b) Special Items: Wheelchairs, Wheel Chairs with Commode Silicon Foam Cushion, Knee Brace, Spinal Support, Cervical Collar, Lumbosacral Belt (LS), Walker/Roalator with Brakes, Walking Stick with Seat, Foot Care Kit:- i.). Flexi Gel Socks ii). Socks Cusion Sandal iii). Silicon Insole (Complete Foot/Ankle) iv). Insole with Pressure Point Relief.	Cost as notified by ALIMCO or actuals whichever is less.

6.3 The Central Government may, wherever necessary release upto 50% of the project cost to the implementing agencies in advance for commencing the project.

6.4 A maximum of Five per cent of the total expenditure of the Scheme shall be used for monitoring and evaluation and ten percent for administrative expenditure excluding cost of organizing the distribution camp. Expenses of cost of transportation, as per the approved rate of concerned State/Regional Transport Authority, will be met out from administrative expenses for bringing beneficiaries for the assessment camps and distribution camps. Overhead charges of a maximum Rs. 25 lakhs or actual whichever is less for organizing the distribution camp shall be allowed to the implementing agency i.e. ALIMCO from the Scheme.

7. Implementation of the Scheme

7.1 A three-tier strategy for the implementation of the Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted Living Devices to senior citizens is envisaged. These tiers consist of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, the State/UT Nodal

Department and the Implementation Committee at the District level. The roles and responsibilities for each tier are outlined below.

7.2 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India will be the nodal Ministry to oversee the implementation of the Scheme. The Ministry will provide financial resources and ALIMCO shall provide the technical guidance including specifications for each of the devices that are proposed to be procured. The Ministry will also set policies and procedural guidelines for the disbursement of the aids and assisted-living devices. Detailed financial and procurement guidelines and conditions for Assistance are at **Annexure-II**.

7.3 State Nodal Department

In each of the State/UT, the Social Welfare Department of the State or the Department dealing with the matters relating to welfare of Senior Citizens or Department so nominated by the State Government will serve as the nodal Department for this Scheme. The Govt. of India reserves the right to re-allocate the districts as and when necessitated to do so. Identification of the districts where the Scheme is to be implemented should focus on backward and rural areas. Priority should be accorded to senior citizens living in shelter homes etc.

7.4 The Central Government shall notify the composition of a Committee at District level for the purpose of selection of the beneficiaries, implementation and monitoring of the Scheme. The Committee shall be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner/Collector of the District, with the district Chief Medical Officer (CMO); District Social Welfare Officer or Joint Director/Deputy Director (Social Welfare)/Joint Director or equivalent at the District level handling the matters relating to senior citizens, Joint Director or equivalent at the District level in the Department of Women & Child Development and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Zilla Parishad as member. In the case of urban areas, the concerned Municipal Commissioner would be member of the Committee. **Mode of Implementation**

8.1 The Scheme will be implemented by the ‘Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)’, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Beneficiaries in each district will be identified by the State Governments/UT Administrations through the Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner/District Collector. The State Government/UT Administration/District Level Committee may utilise the data of BPL beneficiaries receiving Old Age Pension under the NSAP or any other Scheme of the State/UT for identification of senior citizens belonging to BPL category. Income certificate from Revenue Agencies or BPL card or MGNERGA card or Disability Pension Card or Certificate by M.P./MLA/Councillor/Gram Pradhan will be accepted. The

devices will be distributed in the camp mode. The methodology for organizing the camps is at **Annexure-I**.

- 8.2** The ALIMCO shall publish a price list of each device mentioned in **para 5** above, along with specifications and standards as applicable. In the said price list the price of each device shall be fixed while adhering to the price cap, in respect of the device, mentioned in **para 6** of the Scheme. The said price list shall be provided by ALIMCO to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment who shall also publish the list on its website.
- 8.3** ALIMCO will undertake assessment and distribution of the devices on the day to day basis at their HQ and Regional Offices for the target group. In condition of the unavailability of the Medical Officer, Rehabilitation experts from ALIMCO may prescribe wheelchairs, Tripode, Tetrapod, Elbow Crutch, Axilla Crutch, Walking Stick, Foldable Walker and BTE Hearing Aid. For Prescription of Artificial Denture and Spectacles, ALIMCO may hired/engaged the experts from the relevant field in assessing the Senior Citizens at their HQ/ALIMCO Auxiliary Production Centres (AAPCs)/Regional Marketing Centres (RMCs).

9. Eligibility criteria for the beneficiaries

- (i) The person should be a Senior Citizen of India (aged 60 years and above) and possessing an Aadhaar card or should have applied for Aadhaar card and having Aadhaar enrolment acknowledgement. In case, the beneficiary does not possess an Aadhaar card, any of the specified identity documents shall be acceptable for the purpose of identification.
- (ii) The beneficiary may produce a certificate from the District Authority for eligibility or a BPL ration card or proof of receiving Old Age Pension under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) or any other Pension Scheme of the State/UT Government for Senior Citizens belonging to BPL category.
- (iii) Certificate from the Medical Officer shall be required for loss of vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and locomotor disability requiring use of wheelchair. In condition of the unavailability of the Medical Officer, Rehabilitation experts from ALIMCO may prescribe the said requirement.
- (iv) The person should not have received the same device(s) free of cost from any Government source including local bodies and public undertakings controlled by the Government during last 3 years. However, replacement of faulty/non-functional device(s) may be allowed as an exception to this condition.
- (v) In any State/UT, out of the total number of beneficiaries, 30 per cent shall be women.

- (vi) It should be ensured that the percentage of SC/ST beneficiaries of the Scheme shall be equal to or more of their respective percentage of population in the district.
- (vii) Senior Citizen other than the BPL category whose monthly income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 15000/- per month.
- (viii) Income certificate from Revenue Agencies or BPL card or MGNERGA card or Disability Pension Card or Certificate by M.P./MLA/Councillor/Gram Pradhan may be accepted for providing aids/appliances to Senior Citizens.

10. Awareness Generation on the Scheme

The Central and the State Governments/UT Administrations shall ensure wide publicity to the Scheme so that adequate awareness is created among the potential beneficiaries and their families as well as the general public about the existence of the Scheme and the benefits available under it.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Scheme will be monitored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as the nodal Ministry. The programme will be evaluated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The procedural formalities such as *proforma* and procedure of application, sourcing, procurement and distribution will be laid down by the implementing Agency i.e. ALIMCO, as may be suitable depending also upon the local conditions. The Central Government and ALIMCO shall be set up Project Monitoring Units. Project Monitoring Units (PMU) shall be set up in the Ministry and ALIMCO within the allocated Budget and coterminous with the Scheme, as a temporary measure.

After distribution of the assisted living devices, a sample check to the extent of 10% of the beneficiaries shall be made by the ALIMCO/implementing agencies.

12. Audit of Accounts

The accounts of the Implementing Agencies shall be subject to the audit by the prescribed authority in accordance with the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR), 2005, as amended from time to time, in this regard.

13. Financial outlay and physical coverage:-

S. No.	Year	No. of Districts to be covered	No. of Beneficiaries	Total outlay in ₹ Cr #
1	2021-22	86	90300	77.23

Appendix-D**Health and Nutrition: Poshan Abhiyan for Elderly**

Government has launched Poshan Abhiyan in order to address the nutritional deficiencies in various segments of the population with focus on adolescent boys and girls. However, studies have shown that nutritional standards in the elderly, especially the rural areas are extremely low thereby reducing their immunity levels. This problem is extremely alarming in the destitute and indigent elders. If these are identified systematically and provided at least one nutritious meal during the day (mid-day), their quality of life will increase immensely. Hence the Poshan Abhiyaan for the destitute elderly.

2.1 The balanced food for the destitute elders:

- f) Locally available fruits
- g) Locally available vegetables, especially green leafy vegetables
- h) Milk
- i) Eggs
- j) Pulses and cereals

2.3 The focus would be on procuring locally available healthy food material and serving hot-cooked meals mid-day.

2.4 The project can be implemented with a daily allowance of Rs.20 per destitute person, which includes the administrative cost.

2.5 Objectives

- iv) To identify 10,000 Gram Panchayats for running Poshan Abhiyan among the elders with the coordination with the State Govt concerned.
- v) To address the malnutrition problem in 3.5 lakh destitute and indigent elders through nutritional meal.
- vi) To use the anganwadi centre as a day care centre for the elders.

2.7 Modalities

- a) State Govts. will be asked to select the Gram panchayats based on their (i) poverty levels (ii) interest and (iii) ability to run the programme. First preference would be given to the PMAGY villages and Aspirational Districts.
- b) The selected GP details would be entered in an IT portal that would be created for this purpose.
- c) The GPs will do the survey of the indigent elders and enter the details on the portal.
- d) The GPs will identify the implementing agency in the following order:
 - i. Self help groups of elders in the village