

Press Release

Date: 12/02/2025

Location: Leh, Ladakh

Shri Konchok Stanzin has submitted a formal request to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig (Dr) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), seeking an urgent revision of the monthly financial assistance provided under various social welfare schemes, including the Old Age Pension (OAP), Widow Pension (WID), and Pension for Persons with Disabilities (PCP).

Currently, pension beneficiaries in Ladakh receive Rs. 1,000 per month, an amount that has remained unchanged despite the region's rising cost of living and harsh socio-economic conditions. Shri Stanzin highlighted that the Centre's contribution under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) has stagnated at Rs. 200 since 2007, while several states—including Delhi, Goa, Kerala, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh—have already enhanced their pension amounts to between Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 4,000 per month.

Given Ladakh's extreme climate, remote geography, and limited employment opportunities, Shri Stanzin has strongly urged the UT administration to increase monthly financial assistance to at least Rs. 3,000 for all eligible pensioners. He also emphasized the pressing need to lower the eligibility age for the Old Age Pension from 60 years to 55 years, as many individuals over 50 are unable to secure employment due to age restrictions imposed by the Army and GREF.

Additionally, Shri Stanzin has drawn attention to the economic challenges faced by the herder community in Eastern Ladakh. With traditional pastoral livelihoods under increasing strain due to climate change and lack of alternative income sources, he has requested the introduction of a dedicated welfare scheme to provide financial assistance to herders above 18 years of age, ensuring the preservation of their way of life and promoting sustainable pastoral practices.

"The welfare of our elderly, widows, persons with disabilities, and traditional herder communities must be a priority," stated Shri Stanzin. "An increase in financial assistance will significantly improve their dignity, well-being, and financial stability."

This appeal reflects the growing demand for stronger social security measures in Ladakh, and it is hoped that the UT administration will take swift action to address these urgent concerns.

