

## **MODEL LEGISLATION FOR OLDER PERSONS TO BE INTRODUCED IN WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT**

**New Delhi, November 18, 2005**

The Central Model Legislation for Older Persons will be introduced in Parliament during the Winter Session beginning next week. This was stated by the Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Smt. Subulakshmi Jagadeeshan while inaugurating the third batch of one year Diploma Course in Geriatric Care here today. She said the legislation will meet in a comprehensive manner the problems of elderly persons caused by changing socio-economic conditions and social values. She said the legislation will ensure that the maintenance, care and protection of elderly is legally enforceable. Smt. Jagadeeshan said the proposal Act 'while focusing on ensuring maintenance and care of the senior citizen through their children and grand children, including the step and adopted children, would, inter alia, also ensure the well being of indigent and destitute elderly through institutionalized care.' She said under the new legislation one Old Age Home would be set up in every district of the country. Smt. Jagadeeshan said that the proposal Act envisages settlement of disputes through less cumbersome non-judicial process through a Tribunal headed by Sub-Divisional office.

Congratulating the outgoing students and welcoming the new batch, the Minister said that the Diploma and other courses run by the National Institute of Social Defence is meeting the long felt need of creating a dedicated cadre of frontline personnel in geriatric care. It will enhance the delivery of care to the elderly in de-institutionalized settings through targeted intervention. She said the challenges in this area can be met through non-formal systems which need to be empowered. The Minister said the skilled professionals have a great responsibility in this regard.

There are over 7.6 crore elderly persons in the country as per 2001 census. With average life expectancy on increase, their number is likely to grow to 13.7 crore by 2021. 78 per cent of elderly live in rural areas. In order to create skilled geriatric care givers, NSID has been conducting two training programmes – a one-year P.G. Diploma Course and the six months Certificate Course in Geriatric Care.

AD:PC:HRS

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