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- 1 ⇨ **SOCIAL SECURITY STATISTICS**
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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

SOCIAL SECURITY STATISTICS

1991/92 - 1996/97

1. Introduction

This is the second issue of 'Economic and Social Indicators' on Social Security Statistics. It presents data on the main social security benefits provided by the Ministry of Social Security and National Solidarity for the period June 1992 - June 1997. Data on the number of beneficiaries refer to the last month of each financial year whereas the amount paid is given for each financial year.

2. Social Security benefits

Social Security benefits can be divided into two categories : non-contributory benefits and contributory benefits.

Non-contributory benefits are entirely financed by government and are payable to every Mauritian citizen under certain conditions. These benefits include

- basic pensions which cater for the elderly, the invalids, the widows and the orphans irrespective of their economic status.
- allowances such as Social Aid, Food Aid, Unemployment Hardship Relief, Family Allowance and Funeral Grant which are payable to the low-income group of the population.
- Inmates allowance and indoor relief payable to, or on behalf of, those Mauritians residing in government-subsidized institutions (such as old-people homes, infirmaries and orphanages) provided they would have otherwise benefited from a basic pension or from Social Aid.

Contributory benefits, on the other hand, are payable only to, or on behalf of, those persons (mainly employees of the private sector) who have paid contributions to the National Pension Fund (NPF). The contributory pensions include old-age, invalidity, widows and orphans pensions in addition to industrial injury allowances.

The pension rates for non-contributory benefits are given in the annex. In the case of contributory benefits, the allowances payable vary according to the amount contributed to the NPF by the insured worker. For those persons whose contributions were marginal, government guarantees a minimum contributory pension.

3. Population age-structure

The population of the Republic of Mauritius increased from 1,084,401 in mid-1992 to 1,147,706 in mid-1997 (Table 1). The breakdown by age (Table 2), shows that the child population aged below 15 years has decreased from 316,833 (29% of the total) to 304,453 (26% of the total). The elderly population aged 60 years and above, on the other hand, has increased from 89,513 (8% of the total) to 99,272 (9% of the total) in the 5-year period. It is to be noted that these estimates of the elderly population as computed by the CSO differ from those of the Ministry of Social Security. At the Ministry, the number of persons aged 60 years and above drawing the old-age pension (Basic Retirement pension) was 93,465 in June 1992 and 107,106 in June 1997. This discrepancy may be due to various reasons of which : misreporting of age at the Population Census and delays in updating the list of old-age pensioners on account of death.

Table 3 gives the number of widows by age as reported at the 1990 Census. 46,757 widows were enumerated at that time, among whom 17,807 were in the age bracket 15-59 years i.e. eligible for Basic Widows pension. The overall rate of widowhood for those aged 15 years and over was 12.5%.

4. Expenditure on Social Security and Welfare

Government expenditure on Social Security has been increasing over time both in actual amount and in percentage terms. During the financial year 1991/92, expenditure on Social Security was Rs1,764.7 million representing 15% of total government expenditure. Five years later, the amount increased to Rs3,936.5 million or 20% of the total as shown in Table 4.

5. Non-contributory benefits

5.(i) Basic pensions

(a) Old-age pension

The old-age pension also known as Basic Retirement pension is payable to every Mauritian citizen aged 60 years and above. In the Republic, the number of old-age pensioners increased gradually from 93,465 in June 1992 to 107,106 in June 1997. In the island of Mauritius, there were 104,522 in number and in Rodrigues 2,584 in June 1997.

The Enhanced Basic Retirement pension is an additional allowance payable to old-age pensioners who are either

- i. totally blind, or
- ii. suffer from total paralysis, or
- iii. need the constant care of another person

As shown in Table 5.1(a), the number of persons eligible for the Enhanced Basic Retirement pension in June 1997 was 11,081 of whom 10,743 in the island of Mauritius and 338 in Rodrigues.

The total amount disbursed by government to all old-age pensioners in the Republic was Rs1,583.1 million in 1996/97 as compared to Rs681 million five years earlier.

(b) Basic Widows pension

Basic Widows pensions are payable to widows aged below 60 years who were either civilly or religiously married to their late husband. The number of widows aged 15-59 years was 18,927 in June 1992 and gradually increased to 20,428 in June 1997 for the Republic. The corresponding numbers for 1997 were 20,112 in the island of Mauritius and 316 in Rodrigues.

The amount paid on Basic Widows pensions was Rs325.3 million in 1996/97 against Rs142.6 million in 1991/92 .

(c) Basic Invalid pension

The Basic Invalid pension is payable to any person aged from 15 to 59 years if certified by a Medical Board that the person is either permanently or substantially incapacitated to work to a degree of at least 60% for at least 12 months. The number of beneficiaries of Basic Invalid Pension was also on the increase - from 14,312 in June 1992 to 17,405 in June 1997 for the Republic. Out of the latter some 16,988 beneficiaries were in the main island of Mauritius and 417 in Rodrigues.

Basic Invalidity pensioners who need the constant care and attention of another person benefit from an additional allowance known as the Carer's allowance. This group of invalids has trebled from 1300 in June 1992 to 3944 in June 1997. In terms of percentage, 9% of the beneficiaries of Basic Invalid pension were eligible for the Carer's allowance in June 1992 against 23% in June 1997.

Basic Invalid pensions inclusive of Carer's allowance gradually increased in amount from Rs108 million in 1991/92 to Rs302.3 million in 1996/97 for the Republic.

(d) Basic Orphan's pension & Guardian's allowance

Basic Orphan's pension is payable to all orphans up to the age of 15 or those up to 20 years of age if they are in full-time education. Guardian's allowance is payable to the person looking after one or more orphans.

Beneficiaries of Basic Orphan's Pension declined in number from 1,122 in June 1992 to 889 in June 1997 for the Republic. This decreasing trend has been observed in both the islands of Mauritius (from 884 to 708) and Rodrigues (from 238 to 181). Consequently the number of guardians decreased in the five-year period from 819 to 716 in the Republic and the average number of orphans per guardian fell from 1.37 to 1.24.

Basic Orphan's pension and Guardian's allowance together cost government Rs4.8 million in 1991/92. In spite of the decreasing number of beneficiaries, this amount gradually rose to Rs7.4 million in 1996/97 because of increases in the payable rates.

(e) Child's allowance

Child's allowance is payable to children of beneficiaries of Basic Retirement Pension, Basic Widow's Pension and Basic Invalid Pension for those children age up to 15 years or up to 20 years if in full-time education. Child's allowance is payable for up to three dependent children. The number of children of such pensioners benefiting from an allowance (child's allowance) has slightly decreased from 16,392 in June 1992 to 15,497 in June 1997 in the Republic and from 16,018 to 15,093 in the island of Mauritius. In Rodrigues, however there was a slight increase from 374 to 404 in the corresponding five-year period.

The amount spent by government on child's allowance is not available separately - this is included in the overall amount paid for each pension type as shown in Tables 5.1(b), 5.2(b) and 5.3(b).

5.(ii) Other non-contributory social benefits

(a) Social Aid

Social Aid is payable to a head of family who is incapable of earning his living adequately and who has insufficient means to support himself and his dependents. The allowance payable is calculated as the difference between the net income and the expected overall expenditure of the family.

The number of families benefiting from such an assistance has increased in the 5-year period June 1992 - June 1997, from 9,391 to 11,200 in the Republic, i.e. an increase of around 19%. In the island of Mauritius the corresponding increase was nearly 17% (from 8,734 to 10,252) and in Rodrigues almost 44% (from 657 to 948). More details on the geographical distribution of the families receiving Social Aid are given in Table 7.

In the Republic, the amount paid to beneficiaries of Social Aid increased gradually from Rs52.2 million in 1991/92 to Rs108.8 million in 1996/97.

(b) Food Aid

The Food Aid Scheme was introduced in March 1993 when government subsidy on rice and flour was discontinued. Under the Food Aid Scheme, a monthly stipend is given to every needy Mauritian for the purchase of rice and flour. The total amount paid out was Rs21.7 million in 1996/97 and there were 62,563 such beneficiaries in both the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues as at June 1997. It is to be noted that though subsidy on rice and flour was reintroduced as from financial year 1995/96, payment of food aid has still continued.

(c) Indoor Relief

Indoor relief is the grant paid to an institution in respect of every person residing in the institution if that person would have otherwise benefited from a basic pension or from Social Aid. The number of such persons has increased during the past years from 671 in June 1992 to 761 in June 1997. The amount disbursed on indoor relief has thus increased from Rs7.2 million to Rs14.1 million from 1991/92 to 1996/97.

(d) Inmates Allowance

Inmates allowance refers to the pocket money given to certain residents of government-subsidized institutions and of the only government psychiatric hospital, Brown Sequard Hospital. The number of persons receiving such pocket money has decreased to 932 in June 1997 from 1,090 in June 1992 due mainly to a decreasing number in Brown Sequard Hospital. However, the cost of this allowance to government gradually increased from Rs1.4 million in 1991/92 to Rs1.8 million in 1996/97 due to increases in the rates payable.

(e) Unemployment Hardship Relief

The Unemployment Hardship Relief (UHR) is payable to heads of household of the low-income group who provide evidence that they are unable to find work. The number of beneficiaries of UHR was 227 in June 1997 down from 450 in June 1992. The amount paid to UHR beneficiaries remained at around Rs1 million for each financial year from 1991/92 to 1996/97.

(f) Family Allowance

Family allowance is payable to heads of households whose annual family income is less than Rs10,000. The number of households in that group has gradually decreased from 750 in June 1992 to 12 in June 1997. Consequently, the amount disbursed on this allowance which was Rs0.9 million in 1991/92 has decreased to Rs16,900 in 1996/97 .

(g) Funeral Grant

A funeral grant is meant to cover funeral expenses of persons from low-income families. Payments for funeral expenses numbered 960 in financial year 1996/97 and amounted to around Rs1.5 million.

6. Contribution to the NPF and contributory benefits

(a) The National Pension Scheme

The National Pension Scheme came into operation in April 1976. It provides for the payment of contributory pensions to those employees of the private sector who have contributed to the National Pension Fund (NPF). For administrative reasons, all those employees working for employers with more than 10 employees had to join the Scheme from July 1978. Other employees joined the Scheme from January 1980 except for domestic servants for whom the operative date was July 1980. The self-employed were also eligible to join the Scheme from July 1980 on a voluntary basis.

Contributions to the Scheme are payable at the rate of 10.5% by large employers of the Sugar Industry whereas all other employers pay contribution at the rate of 6%. For all employees, the contribution rate is 3%. Contributions are not payable on bonus or overtime pay. The minimum monthly remuneration on which contributions are payable was Rs367 for household employees and Rs612 for other employees in the financial year 1996/97. The maximum monthly remuneration for both categories was Rs4,625 in the same period.

(b) The National Pension Fund

The number of employers contributing to the NPF in respect of their employees has remained at around 15,000 from 1991/92 to 1996/97. The amount contributed however, has increased gradually from Rs494.1 million to Rs761.8 million, mainly due to higher contributions resulting from higher wages (Table 8).

The NPF has nearly doubled from Rs5.1 billion in June 1992 to Rs12.1 billion in June 1997. This is the result of increased income (from higher contributions and return on investment) compared to expenditure (payment of contributory pensions).

(c) Contributory pensions

(i) Contributory Retirement pension

The Contributory Retirement pension is payable to a person on reaching the age of 60 if he has contributed to the NPF. In the Republic of Mauritius, beneficiaries of this type of pension has been gradually increasing in the past years - from 18,756 in June 1992 to 27,262 in June 1997. Consequently the total amount paid out to such beneficiaries has also increased - from Rs46.8 million in 1991/92 to Rs127.1 million in 1996/97.

(ii) Contributory Widow's pension

The Contributory Widow's pension is payable to a widow whose late husband had contributed to the National Pensions Fund. There were 5,387 widows benefiting from such a pension in June 1997 as compared to 3,656 in June 1992. The amount paid was Rs22.2 million in 1996/97 against Rs7.9 million in 1991/92.

(iii) Contributory Invalid's pension

A person is entitled to a Contributory Invalid's pension if he/she has previously contributed to the NPF and suffers from a permanent incapacity of at least 60%. The number of persons drawing such a pension was 1,663 in June 1992 and gradually increased to 2,636 in June 1997. The amount paid to these pensioners also increased - from Rs3.8 million in 1991/92 to Rs8.1 million in 1996/97.

(iv) Contributory Orphan's pension

The Contributory Orphan's pension is payable to orphans under the age of 15 (or 18 if the child is at school) if any of the deceased parents had contributed to the NPF. In the five-year period from June 1992 to June 1997, the number of orphans benefiting from this pension decreased from 163 to 108 for the Republic. The amount paid however increased to Rs0.2 million in 1996/97 from Rs0.1 million in 1991/92 because of the increasing rates payable.

(v) Industrial Injury Allowance

The industrial injury allowance is payable in respect of a work accident (whether fatal or not) for any employee insured under the National Pension Scheme. The number of cases is estimated at 895 in June 1997 against 565 in June 1992. The amount disbursed was Rs21.4 million in 1996/97 as compared to Rs10.8 million in 1991/92.

7. The National Solidarity Fund

The National Solidarity Fund started operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security and National Solidarity on 1 June 1991. The Fund caters for Mauritians who have to undergo surgical operations which cannot be performed locally, and provides financial assistance to persons undergoing severe personal hardship provided the monthly income of their family does not exceed Rs18,000.

The sources of revenue of the Fund are manifold. These include :

- Contribution from the General Public
- Contribution from Ministries and Departments
- Interests on investment
- Unclaimed prizes and unclaimed winning tickets e.g. from Automatics Systems Ltd., from Mauritius Turf Club and from commercial promotions.

Details on the number of persons who have been given assistance from the National Solidarity Fund by contingency is given in Table 10(a) and the amount disbursed in Table 10(b).

8. Projected no. of pensioners and related future costs of basic pensions

As shown in Table 11, there are presently about 7.5 persons aged 15-59 years for each person over age 60. This ratio is expected to fall to about 2.6 in 40 years essentially due to a very high increase in the elderly population aged 60 years and over.

The number of old-age pensioners (aged 60 & above) is expected to treble in 40 years - rising from around 100,000 in 1996 to above 300,000. Correspondingly, the category suffering from a severe disability is expected to increase from nearly 10,000 to 34,000 (Table 12(a)).

The number of beneficiaries of Basic Widows pension and Basic Invalid pension will also be on the increase. Currently there are nearly 20,000 beneficiaries of Basic Widows pension; this is expected to increase to around 37,000 in the next four decades. The number of basic invalidity pensioners, presently around 16,000 in number, is projected to increase to above 23,000 in 40 years.

On the other hand, the number of beneficiaries of Basic Orphans pension is expected to decline over time mainly due to a decrease in the projected number of children. The number of orphans benefiting from a basic pension will be decreasing from 860 to around 730 in the next 40 years. Consequently the number of guardians will also be decreasing - from 735 to around 600.

The amount to be disbursed by government in future years is given in Table 12(b). These estimates are expressed in terms of the 1995/96 pension rates. As shown in the table, Basic Retirement (old-age) pensions will quadruple in the next 40 years, from Rs1.2 billion in 1995/96 to Rs4.6 billion in 2035/36. This is the consequence of ageing of the population : there will be more and more persons in the older age-category both in absolute numbers and percentage in the future. Regarding Basic Widows pensions, Basic Invalid pensions and Basic Orphans pensions, the future costs will increase in line with the projected number of beneficiaries.

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Development ,Productivity and Regional Co-operation
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**Table 1- Mid year population by sex, Republic of Mauritius,
Island of Mauritius & Island of Rodrigues, 1992 & 1997**

| Year | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|---------|
| 1992 | | | |
| Republic of Mauritius | 1,084,401 | 542,917 | 541,484 |
| Island of Mauritius | 1,049,967 | 525,751 | 524,216 |
| Island of Rodrigues | 34,434 | 17,166 | 17,268 |
| 1997 | | | |
| Republic of Mauritius | 1,147,706 | 573,859 | 573,847 |
| Island of Mauritius | 1,112,636 | 556,428 | 556,208 |
| Island of Rodrigues | 35,070 | 17,431 | 17,639 |

Table 2-Mid year population by age-group &sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1992 & 1997

| Age-group (years) | 1st July 1992 | | | 1st July 1997 | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
| Under 15 | 316,833 | 160,876 | 155,957 | 304,453 | 154,426 | 150,027 |
| 0-4 | 105,743 | 53,817 | 51,926 | 104,373 | 52,467 | 51,906 |
| 5-9 | 95,050 | 48,408 | 46,642 | 105,313 | 53,649 | 51,664 |
| 10-14 | 116,040 | 58,651 | 57,389 | 94,767 | 48,310 | 46,457 |
| 15-59 | 678,055 | 342,692 | 335,363 | 743,981 | 376,282 | 367,699 |
| 15-19 | 101,331 | 51,363 | 49,968 | 115,631 | 58,476 | 57,155 |
| 20-24 | 96,235 | 49,287 | 46,948 | 100,257 | 51,003 | 49,254 |
| 25-29 | 106,661 | 54,703 | 51,958 | 94,287 | 48,557 | 45,730 |
| 30-34 | 96,364 | 49,062 | 47,302 | 104,627 | 53,879 | 50,748 |
| 35-39 | 84,853 | 43,313 | 41,540 | 94,514 | 48,105 | 46,409 |
| 40-44 | 71,154 | 35,858 | 35,296 | 82,983 | 42,160 | 40,823 |
| 45-49 | 48,824 | 23,907 | 24,917 | 69,146 | 34,547 | 34,599 |
| 50-54 | 38,073 | 18,479 | 19,594 | 46,798 | 22,583 | 24,215 |
| 55-59 | 34,560 | 16,720 | 17,840 | 35,738 | 16,972 | 18,766 |
| 60 & Over | 89,513 | 39,349 | 50,164 | 99,272 | 43,151 | 56,121 |
| 60-64 | 28,073 | 13,235 | 14,838 | 31,320 | 14,706 | 16,614 |
| 65-69 | 26,565 | 12,341 | 14,224 | 24,313 | 10,973 | 13,340 |
| 70-74 | 15,947 | 6,956 | 8,991 | 21,583 | 9,418 | 12,165 |
| 75-79 | 10,520 | 4,237 | 6,283 | 11,685 | 4,670 | 7,015 |
| 80+ | 8,408 | 2,580 | 5,828 | 10,371 | 3,384 | 6,987 |
| Total | 1,084,401 | 542,917 | 541,484 | 1,147,706 | 573,859 | 573,847 |

Table 3 - Female population aged 15 years & above and no. of widows by age-group, Republic of Mauritius, 1990 Census

| Age-group (years) | Number of widows | Total female population | % widows |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 15 - 19 | 9 | 47,964 | 0.0 |
| 20 - 24 | 90 | 50,238 | 0.2 |
| 25 - 29 | 308 | 51,893 | 0.6 |
| 30 - 34 | 733 | 45,875 | 1.6 |
| 35 - 39 | 1,464 | 39,925 | 3.7 |
| 40 - 44 | 2,559 | 30,309 | 8.4 |
| 45 - 49 | 3,202 | 22,802 | 14.0 |
| 50 - 54 | 4,328 | 19,576 | 22.1 |
| 55 - 59 | 5,114 | 16,475 | 31.0 |
| 15 - 59 | 17,807 | 325,057 | 5.5 |
| 60 & over | 28,950 | 48,819 | 59.3 |
| 15 & over | 46,757 | 373,876 | 12.5 |

Table 4- Government Expenditure on Social Security & Welfare- Republic of Mauritius, 1991/92 - 1996/97

| | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Government expenditure on Social Security & Welfare | | | | | | |
| - in million rupees | 1,764.7 | 1,970.1 | 2,368.8 | 2,671.7 | 3,095.8 | 3936.5 |
| - as % of total Government expenditure | 15.3 | 16.2 | 16.7 | 17.2 | 18.0 | 19.5 |

Table 5.1 - No. of beneficiaries of basic pension and amount paid, Republic of Mauritius, 1991/92 - 1996/97

(a) No. of beneficiaries by pension type, June 1992 - June 1997

| Pension type | Number of beneficiaries | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | June 92 | June 93 | June 94 | June 95 | June 96 | June 97 |
| Basic Retirement Pension (Old age pension) <i>of whom</i> | 93,465 | 95,240 | 98,647 | 101,665 | 103,804 | 107,106 |
| <i>severely disabled</i> ^{1/} | 6,339 | 7,376 | 8,550 | 9,378 | 9,982 | 11,081 |
| Basic Widow's pension | 18,927 | 19,198 | 19,496 | 19,692 | 19,942 | 20,428 |
| Basic Invalid's pension <i>of whom</i> | 14,312 | 14,825 | 15,363 | 15,809 | 16,130 | 17,405 |
| <i>severely disabled</i> ^{2/} | 1,300 | 1,419 | 2,489 | 3,074 | 3,499 | 3,944 |
| Basic Orphan's pension | 1,122 | 1,127 | 1,043 | 984 | 860 | 889 |
| Guardian's allowance | 819 | 836 | 840 | 784 | 735 | 716 |
| Child's allowance <i>of whom children of beneficiaries of</i> | 16,392 | 15,991 | 16,262 | 15,867 | 15,776 | 15,497 |
| <i>Basic Retirement Pension</i> | 295 | 304 | 289 | 285 | 237 | 237 |
| <i>Basic Widow's pension</i> | 11,061 | 11,130 | 10,958 | 10,578 | 10,436 | 10,151 |
| <i>Basic Invalid's pension</i> | 5,036 | 4,557 | 5,015 | 5,004 | 5,103 | 5,101 |

^{1/} drawing the Enhanced Basic Retirement Pension

^{2/} drawing Carer's Allowance

(b) Amount paid by pension type, financial years 1991/92 - 1996/97

| Pension type | Amount paid (Rs million) | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 |
| Basic Retirement Pension (including Enhanced Basic Retirement Pension and child's allowance) | 681.0 | 758.4 | 859.7 | 982.7 | 1190.6 | 1583.1 |
| Basic Widows Pension (including child's allowance) | 142.6 | 158.0 | 174.8 | 190.1 | 209.6 | 325.3 |
| Basic Invalid Pension (including carer's allowance and child's allowance) | 108.0 | 128.5 | 142.9 | 170.7 | 189.2 | 302.3 |
| Basic Orphans Pension (including guardian's allowance) | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 5.8 | 7.4 |

Source: Ministry of Social Security

**Table 5.2 - No. of beneficiaries of basic pension and amount paid, Island of Mauritius,
1991/92 - 1996/97**

(a) No. of beneficiaries by pension type, June 1992 - June 1997

| Pension type | Number of beneficiaries | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | June 92 | June 93 | June 94 | June 95 | June 96 | June 97 |
| Basic Retirement Pension (Old age pension) <i>of whom</i> | 91,208 | 92,950 | 96,254 | 99,216 | 101,267 | 104,522 |
| <i>severely disabled</i> ^{1/} | 6,170 | 7,197 | 8,343 | 9,182 | 9,699 | 10,743 |
| Basic Widow's pension | 18,606 | 18,877 | 19,173 | 19,368 | 19,626 | 20,112 |
| Basic Invalid's pension <i>of whom</i> | 14,060 | 14,570 | 15,072 | 15,504 | 15,781 | 16,988 |
| <i>severely disabled</i> ^{2/} | 1,300 | 1,405 | 2,445 | 3,005 | 3,408 | 3,838 |
| Basic Orphan's pension | 884 | 889 | 804 | 778 | 680 | 708 |
| Guardian's allowance | 664 | 668 | 666 | 632 | 591 | 579 |
| Child's allowance <i>of whom children of beneficiaries of</i> | 16,018 | 15,593 | 15,876 | 15,493 | 15,384 | 15,093 |
| <i>Basic Retirement Pension</i> | 295 | 304 | 289 | 285 | 237 | 237 |
| <i>Basic Widow's pension</i> | 10,759 | 10,809 | 10,666 | 10,304 | 10,182 | 9,914 |
| <i>Basic Invalid's pension</i> | 4,964 | 4,480 | 4,921 | 4,904 | 4,965 | 4,942 |

^{1/} drawing the Enhanced Basic Retirement Pension

^{2/} drawing Carer's Allowance

(b) Amount paid by pension type, financial years 1991/92 - 1996/97

| Pension type | Amount paid (Rs million) | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 |
| Basic Retirement Pension (including Enhanced Basic Retirement Pension and child's allowance) | 664.4 | 739.8 | 837.8 | 958.4 | 1160.5 | 1542.1 |
| Basic Widows Pension (including child's allowance) | 139.9 | 155.2 | 171.9 | 186.8 | 206.1 | 319.8 |
| Basic Invalid Pension (including carer's allowance and child's allowance) | 106.2 | 126.5 | 140.3 | 167.5 | 184.9 | 295.3 |
| Basic Orphans Pension (including guardian's allowance) | 3.9 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 5.9 |

Source: Ministry of Social Security

**Table 5.3 - No. of beneficiaries of basic pension and amount paid, Island of Rodrigues,
1991/92 - 1996/97**

(a) No. of beneficiaries by pension type, June 1992 - June 1997

| Pension type | Number of beneficiaries | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | June 92 | June 93 | June 94 | June 95 | June 96 | June 97 |
| Basic Retirement Pension (Old age pension) <i>of whom</i> | 2,257 | 2,290 | 2,393 | 2,449 | 2,537 | 2,584 |
| <i>severely disabled</i> ^{1/} | 169 | 179 | 207 | 196 | 283 | 338 |
| Basic Widow's pension | 321 | 321 | 323 | 324 | 316 | 316 |
| Basic Invalid's pension <i>of whom</i> | 252 | 255 | 291 | 305 | 349 | 417 |
| <i>severely disabled</i> ^{2/} | - | 14 | 44 | 69 | 91 | 106 |
| Basic Orphan's pension | 238 | 238 | 239 | 206 | 180 | 181 |
| Guardian's allowance | 155 | 168 | 174 | 152 | 144 | 137 |
| Child's allowance | 374 | 398 | 386 | 374 | 392 | 404 |
| <i>of whom children of beneficiaries of</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>Basic Retirement Pension</i> | - | - | - | - | - | 8 |
| <i>Basic Widow's pension</i> | 302 | 321 | 292 | 274 | 254 | 237 |
| <i>Basic Invalid's pension</i> | 72 | 77 | 94 | 100 | 138 | 159 |

^{1/} drawing the Enhanced Basic Retirement Pension

^{2/} drawing Carer's Allowance

(b) Amount paid by pension type, financial years 1991/92 - 1996/97

| Pension type | Amount paid (Rs million) | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 |
| Basic Retirement Pension (including Enhanced Basic Retirement Pension and child's allowance) | 16.6 | 18.6 | 21.9 | 24.3 | 30.2 | 41.0 |
| Basic Widows Pension (including child's allowance) | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 5.5 |
| Basic Invalid Pension (including carer's allowance and child's allowance) | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 4.3 | 7.0 |
| Basic Orphans Pension (including guardian's allowance) | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.5 |

Table 6 - Number of beneficiaries of other non-contributory social benefits and amount paid, Republic of Mauritius, 1991/92 - 1996/97

(a) No. of beneficiaries by type of benefit, June 1992 - June 1997

| Type of benefit | Number of beneficiaries | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | June 92 | June 93 | June 94 | June 95 | June 96 | June 97 |
| Social Aid ^{1/} | 9,391 | 9,278 | 9,607 | 10,021 | 10,761 | 11,200 |
| Food Aid | ... | ... | 60,000 | 61,000 | 61,400 | 62,563 |
| Indoor Relief | 671 | 714 | 734 | 742 | 757 | 761 |
| Inmates Allowance | 1,090 | 1,083 | 997 | 979 | 935 | 932 |
| Unemployment Hardship Relief | 450 | 400 | 321 | 305 | 340 | 227 |
| Family Allowance | 750 | 450 | 226 | 104 | 51 | 12 |
| Funeral Grant ^{2/} | 525 | 492 | 552 | 596 | 624 | 960 |

^{1/} the no. of beneficiaries of Social Aid refers to no. of heads of families who benefit from Social Aid for themselves and for members of their family.

^{2/} refers to the number of payments for the financial years 1991/92 to 1996/97

(b) Amount paid by type of benefit, financial years 1991/92 - 1996/97

| Type of benefit | Amount paid (Rs million) | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 |
| Social Aid | 52.2 | 59.3 | 72.2 | 80.1 | 91.2 | 108.8 |
| Food Aid | ... | ... | 21.5 | 23.8 | 23.9 | 21.7 |
| Indoor Relief | 7.2 | 8.3 | 9.4 | 10.6 | 12.0 | 14.1 |
| Inmates Allowance | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| Unemployment Hardship Relief | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Family Allowance | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Funeral Grant | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.5 |

... not applicable

Source: Ministry of Social Security

Table 7 - Number of beneficiaries^{1/} of Social Aid by district, June 92- June 97

| District/ Island | June 92 | June 93 | June 94 | June 95 | June 96 | June 97 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Port-Louis | 2,201 | 2,083 | 2,138 | 2,213 | 2,194 | 2,192 |
| Pamplemousses | 1,067 | 1,058 | 1,029 | 1,118 | 1,120 | 1,157 |
| Riviere du Rempart | 925 | 922 | 1,048 | 1,110 | 1,177 | 1,207 |
| Flacq | 689 | 680 | 689 | 703 | 803 | 914 |
| Grand-Port | 666 | 699 | 761 | 757 | 893 | 758 |
| Savanne | 532 | 517 | 568 | 630 | 635 | 690 |
| Plaine-Wilhems | 1,952 | 1,968 | 2,017 | 1,951 | 2,189 | 2,419 |
| Moka | 322 | 372 | 342 | 330 | 395 | 389 |
| Black River | 380 | 384 | 394 | 391 | 455 | 526 |
| <i>Island of Mauritius</i> | 8,734 | 8,683 | 8,986 | 9,203 | 9,861 | 10,252 |
| <i>Island of Rodrigues</i> | 657 | 595 | 621 | 818 | 900 | 948 |
| Republic of Mauritius | 9,391 | 9,278 | 9,607 | 10,021 | 10,761 | 11,200 |

^{1/} heads of families who benefit from Social Aid for themselves & for members of their family.

Source: Ministry of Social Security

Table 8 - Contribution to the National Pensions Fund (NPF), financial years 1991/92 - 1996/97

| | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| No. of employers contributing to the NPF | 14,500 | 14,968 | 14,800 | 15,000 | 14,580 | 14,710 |
| Amount contributed by employers and employees (Rs Mn) | 494.1 | 537.8 | 598.1 | 682.9 | 718.9 | 761.8 |
| Surcharge paid by employers (Rs Mn) | 4.4 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 7.4 |
| Size of the NPF (Rs Mn) at end of financial year | 5,067.9 | 6,130.9 | 7,200.2 | 8,505.0 | 10,000.0 | 12,101.6 |

Table 9(a) - No. of beneficiaries of contributory pensions, June 1992 - June 1997

| Pension type | June 92 | June 93 | June 94 | June 95 | June 96 | June 97 |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Contributory Retirement Pension | 18,756 | 20,046 | 21,999 | 23,547 | 25,280 | 27,262 |
| Contributory Widow's Pension | 3,656 | 3,970 | 4,347 | 4,623 | 4,992 | 5,387 |
| Contributory Invalid's Pension | 1,663 | 1,885 | 2,053 | 2,184 | 2,335 | 2,636 |
| Contributory Orphan's Pension | 163 | 141 | 111 | 110 | 104 | 108 |
| Industrial Injury Allowance | 565 | 625 | 720 | 760 | 920 | 895 |

Table 9(b) - Amount paid to beneficiaries of contributory pensions, financial years 1991/92 - 1996/97

| Pension type | Amount paid (Rs million) | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 |
| Contributory Retirement Pension | 46.8 | 55.1 | 69.5 | 86.6 | 106.9 | 127.1 |
| Contributory Widow's Pension | 7.9 | 9.1 | 12.9 | 15.8 | 19.1 | 22.2 |
| Contributory Invalid's Pension | 3.8 | 4.6 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 6.9 | 8.1 |
| Contributory Orphan's Pension | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Industrial Injury Allowance | 10.8 | 12.3 | 14.1 | 16.8 | 16.8 | 21.4 |

Source: Ministry of Social Security

**Table 10(a) - No. of persons receiving assistance from the National Solidarity Fund,
Republic of Mauritius, financial years 1991/92 - 1996/97**

| Contingency | Number of beneficiaries | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 |
| Personal hardship scheme | | | | | | |
| <i>Birth of triplets</i> | ... | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| <i>Fire victims</i> | 65 | 57 | 64 | 74 | 3 | 1 |
| <i>Cyclone relief</i> | - | - | ... | - | - | - |
| Medical treatment abroad | N.A | 18 | 20 | 63 | 74 | N.A |
| Assistance for haemodialysis | ... | ... | ... | 28 | 67 | N.A |

**Table 10(b) - Amount paid to persons receiving assistance from the National Solidarity Fund,
Republic of Mauritius, financial years 1991/92 - 1996/97**

| Contingency | Amount paid (Rs 000) | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 |
| Personal hardship scheme | | | | | | |
| <i>Birth of triplets</i> | ... | 10 | - | 15 | 10 | 15 |
| <i>Fire victims</i> | 65 | 57 | 90 | 111 | 5 | 5 |
| <i>Cyclone relief</i> | - | - | 1,000 | - | - | - |
| Medical treatment abroad | 2,288 | 455 | 460 | 1,475 | 3,004 | 2,525 |
| Assistance for haemodialysis | ... | ... | ... | 700 | 1,352 | 422 |

... Not applicable

N.A : not available

Source: Ministry of Social Security

**Table 11 - Projected population by broad age-group and sex in selected years,
Republic of Mauritius, 1996-2036**

| Age-group (years) | 1st July 1996 | | | 1st July 2006 | | | 1st July 2016 | | | 1st July 2026 | | | 1st July 2036 | | |
|---|---------------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|
| | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
| Under 15 | 306,470 | 155,494 | 150,976 | 296,023 | 149,854 | 146,169 | 271,131 | 137,273 | 133,858 | 269,291 | 136,456 | 132,835 | 258,677 | 131,160 | 127,517 |
| 15-59 | 729,553 | 369,052 | 360,501 | 814,224 | 412,283 | 401,941 | 861,471 | 434,298 | 427,173 | 847,377 | 425,497 | 421,879 | 841,816 | 421,117 | 420,698 |
| 60 & over | 97,528 | 42,469 | 55,059 | 121,848 | 52,730 | 69,118 | 186,345 | 84,255 | 102,090 | 272,861 | 126,398 | 146,463 | 319,711 | 148,277 | 171,434 |
| Total (no.) | 1,133,551 | 567,015 | 566,536 | 1,232,095 | 614,867 | 617,228 | 1,318,947 | 655,826 | 663,121 | 1,389,529 | 688,351 | 701,177 | 1,420,204 | 700,554 | 719,649 |
| Pensioner support ratio ^{1/} | 7.5 | 8.7 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 7.8 | 5.8 | 4.6 | 5.2 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.5 |

^{1/} Number of persons of working age (15-59 years) per old-age pensioner (aged 60 years and over)

Table 12 - Projected no. of beneficiaries and estimated future costs of basic pension in selected years, Republic of Mauritius, 1995/96 - 2035/36

(a) Projected no. of beneficiaries by pension type, June 1996 - June 2036

| Pension type | Actual no. of beneficiaries in June 1996 | Projected number of beneficiaries | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | June 2006 | June 2016 | June 2026 | June 2036 |
| Basic Retirement Pension (Old age pension) | 103,804 | 121,800 | 186,300 | 272,900 | 319,700 |
| <i>of whom</i> | | | | | |
| <i>severely disabled</i> ^{1/} | 9,982 | 12,100 | 16,700 | 24,900 | 34,000 |
| Basic Widow's pension | 19,942 | 28,700 | 34,200 | 34,500 | 36,700 |
| Basic Invalid's pension | 16,130 | 20,300 | 22,900 | 22,900 | 23,400 |
| <i>of whom</i> | | | | | |
| <i>severely disabled</i> ^{2/} | 3,499 | 4,100 | 4,600 | 4,600 | 4,700 |
| Basic Orphan's pension | 860 | 830 | 780 | 750 | 730 |
| Guardian's allowance | 735 | 690 | 650 | 620 | 610 |
| Child's allowance | 15,776 | 15,440 | 14,220 | 13,610 | 13,510 |
| <i>of whom children of beneficiaries of</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Basic Retirement Pension</i> | 237 | 240 | 220 | 210 | 210 |
| <i>Basic Widow's pension</i> | 10,436 | 10,200 | 9,400 | 9,000 | 8,900 |
| <i>Basic Invalid's pension</i> | 5,103 | 5,000 | 4,600 | 4,400 | 4,400 |

^{1/} drawing the Enhanced Basic Retirement Pension

^{2/} drawing Carer's Allowance

(b) Estimated future costs (Rs million) by pension type, financial years 1995/96 - 2035/36

| Pension type | Actual amount paid in 1995/96 | Estimated future costs at 1995/96 pension rates | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 2005/06 | 2015/16 | 2025/26 | 2035/36 |
| Basic Retirement Pension (including Enhanced Basic Retirement Pension and child's allowance) | 1,191 | 1,760 | 2,660 | 3,880 | 4,640 |
| Basic Widows Pension (including child's allowance) | 210 | 280 | 325 | 325 | 345 |
| Basic Invalid Pension (including carer's allowance and child's allowance) | 189 | 220 | 245 | 245 | 250 |
| Basic Orphans Pension (including guardian's allowance) | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |

ANNEX II

| Pension type | Monthly (Rs) amount payable in 1996/97 |
|--|--|
| Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) | Rs1055 for ages 60-89 Rs4120 for ages 90-99 Rs4220 for ages 100+ |
| Basic Widow's Pension (BWP) | Rs1,055 |
| Basic Invalid's Pension (BIP) | Rs1,055 |
| Basic Orphan's Pension (BOP) | Rs500 |
| Guardian' allowance | Rs195 |
| Child's allowance | Rs300 for ages 0-10 Rs330 for ages 10 & above |
| Enhanced Basic Retirement Pension | Rs1800 for ages 60-89 Rs4865 for ages 90-99 Rs4965 for ages 100+ |
| Carer's allowance | Rs620 |
| Social Aid | Rs275 (minimum amount payable) |
| Food Aid | Rs30 |
| Indoor Relief | Rs50 (amount paid daily) |
| Inmates Allowance | Rs110 |
| Unemployment Hardship Relief | Rs67 (minimum amount payable) |
| Family Allowance | Rs50 |
| Funeral Grant | Rs1,540 |
| Minimum Contributory Retirement Pension | Rs177 |
| Allowance under the National Solidarity Fund | |
| - Medical treatment abroad | Rs80,000 (maximum amount payable) |
| - Personal Hardship Scheme | Rs5,000 |

Source: Ministry of Social Security