

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 926**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022/ AGRAHAYANA 22, 1944  
(SAKA)**

**BARIDARS OF VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE**

**†926. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Government is aware that Baridars or priests (Hindu Community) have been worshipping Maa Vaishno Devi for thousands of years and their families were supported by the money offered/donated in the temple;**

**(b) whether these Baridars (priests) were thrown out of the caves on the night of August 30, 1986 without any prior information and the Shrine Board had taken over all the rights of the shrine resulting into livelihood crisis for about 20 thousand Baridar families;**

**(c) if so, the efforts made/being made by the Government to provide Baridars their rights;**

**(d) whether the Government has promised to find a permanent solution to the problems of Baridars but nothing has been done so far in this regard; and**

**(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

**(a) to (e): The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has not reported any such subsistence crisis relating to families of Baridars of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. The administration and management of the Shri Mata**

**Vaishno Devi Shrine are vested in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, an autonomous body constituted through an act of J&K State Legislature in August, 1986.**

**Various initiatives have been taken by the Government for welfare of Baridar families, which include the following:**

- (i) An amount of Rs. 9,36,49,981.00 (including interest) has been disbursed to the Baridar families as compensation.**
- (ii) Scholarships to the students belonging to the erstwhile Baridar families are being disbursed. Till March, 2022, Rs. 8.45 Crore has been disbursed to 15,379 students as scholarships.**
- (iii) Upto 24.11.2022, an Amount of Rs. 4.34 Crore has been distributed to 1367 families as financial assistance to the Baridars for the marriage of their daughters.**
- (iv) Rs.1.00 lakh Fixed Deposit Receipt has been kept reserved for each of 79 girl children of Baridar families under the Adoption of Girl Child Scheme. In addition, Rs. 500/- per month is disbursed to the families of the registered 79 girl children of Baridar.**