

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1531
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010
PATHETIC CONDITION OF WIDOWS
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a): whether as per the Census of 2001, several widows are living a very pathetic life;
- (b): if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any special scheme for the upliftment of these widows; and
- (c): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (c) : As per the census 2001, there are 3.43 crore widows in the country. Government is implementating the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under which pension @ Rs. 200/- per month is provided to widows in the age group of 40-64 years and living below poverty line. 24.30 lakh widows have been benefitted under IGNWPS so far. Widows above the age of 64 years are covered under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under which Rs. 200 per month is given. Two shelter based schemes, namely, Swadhar and Short Stay Homes are implemented for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances. Widows who do not have family and societal support can avail benefits of shelter, food, medical care, vocational training etc. under these schemes.