

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4598
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010
WIDOWS IN MATHURA AND VRINDAVAN
Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) : whether a large number of widows who have been driven out of their homes after the deaths of their husbands are camped in ashrams of Mathura and Vrindavan with no social security or access to basic healthcare;
- (b) : if so, whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed the National Commission for Women (NCW) to undertake a survey of thousands of widows living miserably in Vrindavan and Mathura in November, 2008;
- (c) : if so, the status of the survey being conducted by the NCW; and
- (d) : the time by which the NCW likely to submit its Report to the Supreme Court?

Answer

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

(a) : Yes, Madam;

Under Swadhar Scheme, financial assistance is provided for construction or renting of building to accommodate women who are destitute including widows. Financial assistance is also provided under the scheme to meet their expenses on food, healthcare, pocket money and counselling of the inmates. Such homes managed by the state Government and NGOs are functioning in Vrindavan.

(b) : In writ petition (Civil) No.659 of 2007, Environment and Consumer Protection Foundation Vs, UOI & Ors, the Supreme Court in its order dated 6.12.2008 had directed the National Commission for Woman (NCW) to conduct a survey and file its reply to the Supreme Court on this issue.

(c) & (d) : The survey has been completed by the NCW which will be filing the report before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.