

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3262
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2010
STATUS OF WIDOW DIVORCED AND DESERTED WOMEN
Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) the number of widowed, divorced and deserted women in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any survey on scientific lines in regard to their pathetic and economic condition;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) As per the 2001 census, there are 34.3 million widows and 2.34 million divorced / separated women in the country. State-wise number of widows, divorced /separated women is at Annex-I.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) & (e): The Ministry of WCD is implementing following three schemes to protect the interest of widows, divorced and deserted women:

- i. Swadhar and Short Stay Homes for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.
- ii. Support for Training & Employment Programme (STEP), Skill Upgradation Training is provided to assetless and Below Poverty Line women.

Apart from these, Ministry of Rural Development is also administering the following three schemes

(i) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under which pension is provided to a widow in the age group of 40-64 years and living below poverty line @ Rs.200/- per month;

(ii) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme under which a pension of Rs.200/- per month is provided to the persons above sixty five years of age belonging to BPL including women; and

(iii) NREGA, under which willing persons including women are entitled to guaranteed 100 days employment during a year.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is also administering an Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) which is being implemented since 1992 with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens including women by providing basic amenities like shelter, food medical care etc.