

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4416
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2010
PATHETIC CONDITION OF WOMEN
Pandey Saroj

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note on the pathetic condition of widows, destitute and other elderly women in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for improving the conditions of such women;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of funds made available and utilized under such schemes during the last three years, and scheme-wise; and
- (f) the benefits accrued as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): As per 2001 census, there are 34.3 million widows in the country. The Government is administering Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under which pension is provided to widows in the age group of 40-64 years living below poverty line @ Rs.200/- per month. Widows aged 65 years or higher living below poverty line (along with other eligible persons) are provided Old Age Pension @ Rs.200/- per month under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). Allocations for these two schemes are being made under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) along with other schemes.

The states are expected to contribute Rs.200/- p.m. per beneficiary from their own resources for both these schemes.

Two shelter based schemes, namely, Swadhar and Short Stay Homes are being implemented for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances. Women, including widows, who do not have family and societal support can avail benefits of shelter, food, medical care, vocational training etc. under these schemes.

(e): The scheme-wise details of funds made available and utilized under Swadhar and Short Stay Home schemes for the last three years is at annex.

During 2009-10, 32.13 lakh widows have been benefitted under IGNWPS and 39353 women were benefitted under Swadhar and Short Stay Home Schemes.