

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1674

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2010

DESTITUTE WOMEN

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding number of socially boycotted destitute women in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme and law for the welfare of these destitute women, particularly women belonging from rural and tribal areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) : the number of widows getting pension in the country, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (b) : No Madam. However, as per 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.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing following three schemes to protect the interest of women including destitute women:

- i. Swadhar and Short Stay Homes for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.
- ii. Support for Training & Employment Programmes (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.

(e): The details of number of women getting pension under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme in the country is at Annex-II.