

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2967  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011  
PITABLE LIFE OF WIDOWS  
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

- (a) whether many widows are living a pitiable life as per the Census 2011; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith welfare scheme for these widows?

**Answer**

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

(a)& (b): As per 2001 Census for which information is available, there were 3.43 crore widows in the country. The Government has been implementing several schemes/ programmes for the welfare of women including widows, such as:

- (i) Swadhar and Short Stay Homes for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.
- (ii) Support for Training & Employment Programme (STEP) under which skill upgradation training is provided to assetless and below poverty line women.
- (iii) Scheme of Working Women Hostel under which assistance is provided for the construction/expansion/ renting of hostel building with the objective of providing safe accommodation to single working women who are unmarried, widowed, divorced or separated as well as to the married women whose husband or immediate family does not reside in the same area.
- (iv) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under which pension is provided to the widow in the age group of 40-64 years who is living below poverty line.
- (v) Integrated Programme for Older Persons under which financial assistance is given to voluntary organizations for running and maintenance of old age homes, mobile medical units etc. for the destitute senior citizens and for setting up of Multi Facility Care Centre for Older Widow Women to provide full time shelter, care, training in income generating activities, conduct of religious programmes, yoga etc. to older widows.