

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5009
ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011
DESTITUTE/WIDOWS/SINGLE WOMEN
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether her Ministry has assessed the number of widows/destitute/single women in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether her Ministry has implemented welfare schemes for such women;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of beneficiaries therefrom during the last three years and current year, State-wise; and
- (e) the funds sanctioned, released and utilized by the State Government during the said period, State-wise, Scheme-wise and year-wise?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): As per the 2001 Census, there were 3,42,89,729 widows and 23,42,930 divorcee/ separated women in the country.
- (c) & (d): The Ministry of Women & Child Development is administering following schemes for welfare of widows/destitute/single women.
 - i. Two shelter based schemes, namely, Swadhar and Short Stay Home which provide emergency outreach services to women in difficult circumstances who do not have societal/family support or independent means of income;
 - ii. Working Women Hostel Scheme for working women;
 - iii. Support for Training & Employment Programme (STEP) for providing Skill Upgradation Training to assetless and Below Poverty Line Women including widows/destitute/single women.

The State-wise, scheme-wise and year-wise number of beneficiaries during the last three years and current year are at Annex-I

- (e): Under these schemes, funds are released directly to the implementing agencies. The scheme-wise and year-wise funds released to the implementing agencies in various States during the last three years and current year are at Annex-II.