

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3731  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011  
DESTITUTE WOMEN  
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram

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

- (a) the number of widows, divorcee and deserted women in Rajasthan;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted or proposes to conduct any scientific survey regarding such deserted women who despite not getting a divorce are living away separately from their husbands;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government for the welfare of such women?

**Answer**

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

(a): The number of widowed and divorced/ separated women in Rajasthan, as per the Census 2001, was 1589726 and 49544 respectively.

(b) & (c): No, Madam.

(d): The Union Government has been implementing several schemes/ programmes for the welfare of women including widows and deserted women 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 marginalised women with special focus on SC/ST households, women headed households and families below poverty line.

(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.

Further, the Government of Rajasthan is taking a number of measures such as:

(i) Implementing the "Mahila Swaymsiddha Scheme" under which widowed, divorced/ separated, deserted women are provided free vocational training for self employment.

(ii) An amount of Rs. 10,000/- is being provided as financial assistance for the marriage of upto two daughters of widows.

(iii) Under the "Vidhwa Vivah Uphaar Yojana" widows who are entitled to pension, are given a gift of Rs. 15,000/- at the time of their re-marriage.

(iv) 10% positions of teachers have been reserved for widows/divorcees of which 8% are for widows and 2% for divorcees.