

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:135

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

SHELTERS TO HOMELESS PEOPLES

Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether during the recent winter the Supreme Court had issued fresh directions to State Governments in Northern India to provide adequate shelters during the night for the homeless people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the initiatives taken by these Northern States so far in this regard; and
- (d) the additional night shelters provided by each of these States/UTs so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is not a party to such a petition pending before Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hence no such direction has been received in this Ministry.

As 'Housing' and 'Colonisation' are State subjects, the primary responsibility of providing shelter lies with the State Governments. However, earlier from 1988-89, the then Ministry of Urban Development was extending financial support for construction of night shelters under the scheme 'Night Shelter for Urban Shelterless'. The scheme was transferred to the State sector in 2005-06, and financial assistance from the center was discontinued. Therefore, this Ministry is not in the position of providing status of State's actions in this regard.