

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4633
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2012
WIDOWS DIVORCEE DESTITUTE WOMEN
Patle Kamla Devi

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

- (a) the number of widows, divorcee and deserted women in the country, State-wise including Chhattisgarh;
- (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;
- (d) the number of such women in the country, State-wise; and
- (e) 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): 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 including Chhattisgarh is Annexed.

(b): No Madam.

(c) & (d): Does not arise.

(e): The Ministry of Women & 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 Programme (STEP) under which 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.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is also administering an Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) which is being implemented since 1992 with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens including women by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care etc.