

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3290
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
WIDOWS LIVING IN VRINDAVAN
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the woes of widows living in Vrindavan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has recently observed that only a small portion of allocated funds for the welfare of these widows actually reaches them;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (e) the measures undertaken by the Government for their welfare along with the funds sanctioned, released and utilized during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Taking cognizance of the news item published in Hindu Daily News paper dated 8th January, 2012 "Vrindavan widows are denied dignity even in death", the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India had requested the State Government of UP to enquire about the matter and also to verify the credentials of the organizations who are running the shelter homes. The Govt. of UP conducted the enquiry and informed that no such fact came to the notice during the enquiry and the article of the newspaper seemed to be biased and baseless.

(c): The survey report carried out by a Committee headed by Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, on the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, has inter-alia pointed out deficiencies in the functioning of Government funded shelter homes like unhygienic conditions, lack of medical facilities, deplorable living conditions, no proper arrangements for funerals etc.

(d): On the basis of the said survey report, on 3-8-2012, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed direction to the concerned State authorities to ensure proper sanitation, medical facilities, supply of proper food and drinking water in the shelter homes etc.. The Hon'ble Court has also directed that last rights of the deceased are performed properly at the State's expense in the event of their death. The National Commission for Women (NCW) and Uttar Pradesh State Commission for Women have been directed to suggest steps to ameliorate the pathetic condition of the destitute women living in Vrindavan.

(e): The Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India is implementing two shelter based schemes i.e. Swadhar scheme and Short Stay Scheme for the women in distress. Presently, at Vrindavan 4 Swadhar Homes and 1 Short Stay Home are functioning. Under these shelter homes free shelter, food, medical care, counseling etc. are being provided to the beneficiaries. The details of funds released to these shelter homes during the last 3 years are annexed.