

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4356  
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2012  
SCHEMES FOR WIDOWS  
Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has proposed any scheme to improve the livelihood of widows in rural areas by providing employment opportunities/pensions, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a) & (b): The Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) is implemented in rural and urban areas to provide pension to widows, belonging to Below Poverty Line households, which are in the age group of 40-59 years. The Ministry also implements through State Governments the major schemes namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as wage employment and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)/Aajeevika for self-employment for poor households, including widows living in rural areas of the country.

(c) & (d): The Budget provision under MGNREGA and SGSY/NRLM is Rs. 33000 crore and Rs.3515 crore respectively during the current financial (i.e.2012-13). The funds under IGNWPS are released as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) by the Ministry of Finance to the State Governments.