

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2319
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2012
ASHRAMS FOR WIDOWS
Chaudhary Shri Jayant

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

- (a) whether the Government provides financial assistance (i) for setting up and maintenance of ashrams for widows in Mathura and Vrindavan (ii) for providing basic facilities/amenities like medical, sanitation, drinking water etc. to the widows living in these ashrams;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to release the sanctioned funds for the development of these ashrams and welfare of the widows living therein;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enhance financial assistance to these ashrams; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India is provides financial assistance for setting up and maintenance of Swadhar Homes and Short Stay Homes for the benefit of women in distress including Widows. Presently, at Vrindavan, 4 Swadhar Homes and 1 Short Stay Home are functioning with support of Ministry. Under these Shelter Homes free shelter, food, medical care, clothing, counseling etc. are being provided to the beneficiaries.

As per the provision of the Scheme, funds are released to the implementing agencies in installments on receipt of recommendation of the State Government alongwith all required documents. The details of funds released to these Shelter Homes during the last 3 years are annexed.

(c) & (d): As the target group and the objective of Swadhar and Short Stay Home schemes were similar, the process of merger of the both Schemes in a new scheme 'Swadhar Greh' with revised financial norms is under process.