

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4571
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014
SEPARATED WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of divorced/separated women have increased in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of divorced/separated women in the country as per the last census, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the various schemes being implemented by the Government to protect the interest of divorced/separated women in the country; and
- (d) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): There were 14,26,700 and 23,42,930 divorced/separated women in the country as per 1991 and 2001 Census respectively which shows increase in the number of divorced/separated women in the decade. State/UT wise number of divorced/ separated women is annexed.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing following schemes for rehabilitation of destitute women and women in difficult circumstances to improve their living conditions, which can be availed by divorced/separated women fulfilling the schematic requirements:-

- i. Swadhar Scheme to provide primary need of shelter, food, medical care, counseling etc. to women in difficult circumstances.
- ii. Short Stay Homes to rehabilitate women who are facing social , economic and emotional setback due to family problems, social ostracism etc. being implemented by the Central Social Welfare Board.
- iii. Support for Training & Employment Programme (STEP) under which skill upgradation training is provided to assetless and Below Poverty Line (BPL) women.

Apart from these, Ministry of Rural Development is 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 40-59 years from Below Poverty Line households.
- ii. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme under which pension is provided to persons between 60-80 years and above belonging to BPL households including women; and
- iii. MNREGA, 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.

The National Commission for Women has entered into an MoU with Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) on 7th May 2013 to improve the living conditions of destitute women on the identified areas for facilities like women hostels, remand homes etc. or anything which is related to women welfare or development by enhancing quality of their habitat. The first initiative is being undertaken at Vrindavan for renovation and reconstruction of the shelter homes for the widows.