

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:803

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015

ORPHANS AND WIDOWS

Godse Shri Hemant Tukaram;Patel Shri Prahlad Singh;Patil Shri A.T. (Nana);Singh Shri Ganesh;Singh Shri Sunil Kumar;Vichare Shri Rajan Baburao

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the number of widows and orphans in the country, if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/ UT-wise and if not, the time by which such survey is likely to be conducted;

(b) the number of orphanages and shelter homes for widows functioning in the country at present along with the number of inmates therein, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the cases of child abuse in such orphanages have come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the action taken/being taken by the Government in such cases so far;

(d) the regulatory mechanism put in place by the Government to keep a check on the functioning of the orphanages including private orphanages in the country;

(e) the details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government for welfare and rehabilitation of widows and orphans including those who attain adulthood; and

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a new scheme to provide financial assistance to such widows and encourage them for re-marriage, if so, the details thereof along with the time by which such scheme is likely to be implemented in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a): Office of the Registrar General of India conducts decadal population census wherein data on widows is collected. As per 2001 Census, there are 34.29 million widows in the country. Census 2011 data on widows is yet to be released. A statement giving State/UT-wise figures of widows is as at Annexure-I. No survey regarding the number of orphans in the country has been done by the Government.

(b): The number of children homes and specialized adoption agencies funded under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), along with the number of inmates State/UT- wise is as per Annexure-II. Number of shelter homes for widows functioning in the country State/UT-wise along with the number of inmates is as per Annexure-III.

(c) & (d): National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has registered 31 complaints of exploitation and abuse of children in the Protection Homes/Child Care Institutions including orphanages during the last three years and the current year. The State/UT-wise details along with the action taken/being taken, are given in Annexure-IV. Section 34(3) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 [JJ Act] mandates all Child Care Institutions (CCIs) including homes of various types to be registered under the Act. The provisions of the JJ Act and the rules framed thereunder inter-alia provide for various mechanisms including inspection of CCIs, minimum standards of care etc., to keep a check on the functioning of these institutions.

(e): The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme viz., Integrated Child Protection Scheme for rehabilitation and reintegration of children in difficult circumstance including orphans. Under ICPS financial assistance is provided to State/UTs for setting up and maintenance of various types of homes, providing after care funds for children who have attained adulthood.

The Ministry is also implementing shelter based rehabilitation scheme Swadhar for women in difficult circumstances including widows. The beneficiaries are provided with shelter, food, clothing, counseling, medical and legal aid as also skill up gradation for economic rehabilitation.

(f): No, Madam.