

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6939
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2015
SCHEMES FOR WIDOWS
Hemamalini Smt.

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has advised the Union Government to provide all basic amenities to Vrindavan based widows and if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Union Government in consultation with the State Government of UP proposes to launch any special welfare and rehabilitation scheme for Vrindavan based widows and, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has any specific data about such widows in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, Statewise ?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SAN JAY GANDHI)

- (a) :The Hon`ble Supreme Court in the Order dated 20.2.2015 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.659 of 2007 (Environment & Consumer Protection Foundation Vs. Union of India and Others) appointed the Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh as the Nodal Officer to look into various reports and take action to ameliorate the problems and difficulties of the widows in Vrindavan. The Nodal Officer is directed, among other things, to formulate a plan of action to ameliorate the condition of ` widows.
- (b) :The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India 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 the Ministry. Under these shelter homes free shelter, food, medical care, clothing, counseling etc. are provided to the beneficiaries.
- (c) & (d): As per Census conducted by the Office of the Registrar General in 2011, there are 4,32,1,478 widows in the country. State/UTwise number of widows is given at Annexure.