

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3236
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
ASSISTANCE TO WIDOWS OF EX SERVICEMEN
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of widows of ex-servicemen in the country, rank and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government advances any monthly assistance or one-time specific purpose grants to these war widows or their dependent children;
- (c) if so, the details of the monthly assistance as well as grants and the total number of widows / dependent children who receive these pensions / grants on monthly basis, rank- wise;
- (d) whether the Government regularly revises the monthly assistance provided to these widows; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO Inderjit Singh)

- (a) The total number of widows of Ex-Servicemen in the country is 449699. The rank-wise and State-wise details of widows are at Annexure-I.
- (b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Kendriya Sainik Board provides monthly assistance and one time grant under various welfare schemes to the war widows and their dependent children. The details of monthly assistance / grants and rank-wise number of widows / dependents who received this assistance are at Annexure- It & II-A respectively. States / UTs also have some schemes to provide assistance to war widows and their dependents.
- (d) Yes, Madam. Need based revision is undertaken by the Government.
- (e) The Government has revised the following monthly assistance / grants:
 - (i) Penury Grant: From Rs.30,000 (one time) to Rs.1000 p.m. for life time in October 2011.
 - (ii) Education Grant: From Rs. 200 / 400 / 600 p.m. to Rs.1000 p.m. in October 2011.
 - (iii) Disabled Children Grant: From Rs.500 to Rs.1000 p.m. in October 2011.
 - (iv) PM Scholarship Scheme: From Rs.1250 and Rs.1500 p.m. to Rs. 2000 and Rs.2250 p.m. for boys and girls respectively w.e.f. 2012-13.
 - (v) Recurring Grant to War Memorial Hostels: From Rs.675 to Rs.1350 p.m. in January 2014 for wards of non-attributable casualties.