

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 30.11.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES FOR SINGLE WOMEN .**

1208

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan

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

(a): whether it is a fact that there are millions of single women particularly widows, working women and socially marginalized ones in the country who do not get ration cards, employment cards under NREGS and benefits under various social security schemes of the Central and State Governments;

(b): if so, the details thereof; and

(c): the remedial measures Government have taken or proposes to take to protect the interests of the single women in the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a),(b) & (c) As per 2001 census, there are 23,42,930 divorce/separated women and 3,72,89,729 widows in the country. Under the Scheme of NREGA, all rural household including single women can avail benefit of 100 days guaranteed employment and women get priority under NREGA. Under Indira Gandhi National Social Assistance Programme all persons who are 65 years or higher and belong to BPL category are eligible to get pension of Rs.200/- per month from the Govt. of India. The Scheme was expanded in February, 2009 and widows in the age group of 40-64 are also eligible for pension under the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme. Issuance of the ration card is the responsibility of State Governments. The Ministry runs the Support for Training & Employment Programme (STEP) for skill upgradation and generation of livelihood options for assetless and marginalized women. Besides there two other schemes of the Ministry i.e. Swadhar and Short Stay Homes, which are intended to provide emergency outreach services including shelter, medical treatment, counseling, food, clothing etc. to women in difficult circumstances who do not have societal/family support or independent means of income.