GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2038
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/12/2021

IMPACT OF IGNWPS

2038 SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of beneficiaries of the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) from 2015-16 to 2020-21, year-wise;
(b) whether it is a fact that the said scheme has been able to reduce poverty and vulnerability among widows;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the steps being taken by Government to address the issues of widows throughout the country?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): The year-wise details of beneficiaries of the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) from 2015-16 to 2020-21 are enclosed in Annexure.

(b) to (e): Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) is a component of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), which is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). An assistance of Rs.300 per month is provided for widows belonging to BPL households aged between 40 to 79 years. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiaries are shifted to old age category where they get enhanced pension of Rs.500 per month. In addition, States/UTs also top up central assistance. This scheme is being implemented in all States/UTs in rural as well as urban areas and has a positive impact on the living conditions of poor widows. Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development provides shelter, food and medical care to the women in difficult circumstances without any social and economic support under the scheme of Home for Widows. Households headed by Widows are eligible for inclusion in the SHG based programmes viz. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission for empowerment, livelihood security and financial inclusion, PM Jan Arogya Yojana for in patient health care services etc.

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Annexure Referred in Part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2038 to be answered on 15.12.2021.

Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) Beneficiaries from 2015-16 to 2020-21

Year	Number of beneficiaries
2015-16	5390517
2016-17	5726184
2017-18	5846459
2018-19	5812556
2019-20	5935489
2020-21	6088717