

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 148
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2022

SINGLE MOTHER HOUSEHOLDS AMONG TRIBAL AND FOREST DWELLING COMMUNITY

148 SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any statistics for single mother households among the tribal and other forest dwelling community because of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) how many children among such households have suffered from malnourishment during the pandemic;
- (c) what steps have been undertaken by Government to check abandonment of both women and children from the tribal community during the pandemic; and
- (d) what welfare measures have been adopted by Government for the households run by single mothers among the tribal and forest dwelling community?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): As per information received from various State Governments/ UT Administration, as on 27th May 2022, 7,91,353 claims have been settled/ payment released as ex-gratia relief from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to next of kin of the persons who died due to COVID-19. However, the data specific to single mother households among the tribal and other forest dwelling community because of the COVID-19 pandemic is not maintained centrally.

Government of India adopted a whole of Government and whole of society approach to mitigate the health and non-health related impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the community including the vulnerable population groups. Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provided requisite technical, logistical and financial support to all States/UTs to manage various facets of COVID-19 pandemic management. The Ministry also provided technical guidance for managing various aspects of COVID-19 including surveillance, containment, testing, travel advisories, clinical management protocols, home isolation for mild/asymptomatic cases etc. The Ministry of Women and Child Development ensured that its schemes/ programmes such as One Stop Centre, Child Care Institution, Shakti

Sadan, Women Helpline etc remain available to assist women and children including single women household from tribal community during Covid-19 pandemic for providing relief and rehabilitation services through basic amenities/ needs such as supplementary nutrition, shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counselling, legal aid, vocational training etc. During Covid Take Home Ration was provided by Anganwadi Workers/ Helpers to all children in the age group 6 months to 6 years; Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM); and out of School Adolescent Girls at their homes every fortnight to ensure that Children and PW&LM do not suffer from malnutrition.

The Government is implementing various schemes/ programmes for welfare and empowerment of women which are available to single mother households as well. Some of such schemes/ programmes include Shakti Sadan (erstwhile Swadhar Greh Scheme and Ujjawala Homes) for the women victims of difficult circumstances, a special home namely 'Krishna Kutir' for widowed women, Mission POSHAN 2.0 to support last mile service delivery to registered children and pregnant women and lactating mothers all over the country. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras' are established to provide Quality generic Medicines at Affordable Prices. Ayushman Bharat Yojana has been implemented to provide free of cost treatment through over 1200 medical packages to over fifty crore citizens of India, predominantly enhancing access to health benefits to poor women. The vulnerable groups including the households in tribal community are included in the eligible list of beneficiaries for cashless patient treatment of up to Rs. 5 Lakh per family per year. Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan package, women account holders of PM-Jan-Dhan Yojana were given an ex-gratia of Rs. 500 per month for three months amounting to Rs. 31,000 Cr. approx.

Many initiatives for economic empowerment of women have been taken. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) mandates that at least one third of the jobs generated under the scheme (MGNREGS) should be given to women. Farmers' welfare schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, etc. continue to nurture an enabling environment for women farmers. Through the initiatives Government is improving farm women's access to productive resources including agricultural extension services thereby bringing overall improvement in the lives of rural women. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture imparting training for skills development to women, provide more subsidy/assistance to women farmers, beneficiaries as compared to general category farmers. Most of the 20 million houses made under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme are in the name of women. All this has increased the participation of women in financial decision making. 'Vocal for Local' has a lot to do with women's empowerment, as the power of most local products is in the hands of women. In order to enhance the employability of women workers, the Government is providing training to women through a network of Women Industrial Training Institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes. Prime Minister's Rural Digital Literacy Campaign (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) that seeks to make 60 million persons digitally literate, reaching around 40% of rural households by covering one member from every eligible household.

There are schemes like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and Stand-Up India, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), for helping women set up their own enterprises. 68% loans sized up to one million rupees have been sanctioned to women-owned and operated enterprises under PM Mudra Yojana. Under one of the largest financial inclusion programmes in the world, PM Jan Dhan Yojana has benefited more than 255 million women (53% of the total accounts in the name of women), mostly in rural areas to open their own bank accounts.

Under our National Rural Livelihoods Mission, over 8.4 crore women are connected with around 78 lakh women's self-help groups that are transforming our rural socio-economic landscape in several innovative and socially and ecologically responsible ways, also availing governmental support including through collateral free loans.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) has been launched to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers including women, who are not covered by any other pension scheme mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio-visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years.
