

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1159
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th March, 2025

SCHEMES FOR WIDOWS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

1159 SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:
SMT. SULATA DEO:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of widows of ex-servicemen in the country, State-wise and rank-wise;
- (b) whether Government regularly revises the monthly assistance provided to these widows, and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has reviewed or plans to review welfare measures for war widows and families of Armed Forces personnel;
- (d) whether employment has been provided on compassionate grounds to war widows based on their educational qualifications; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, including any other support like housing schemes provided?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

- (a): The total number of widows of Ex-Servicemen in the country is 740766 as on 31st December, 2024. State-wise data of widows of ESM is at Annexure-I. Rank-wise data is not maintained.
- (b): The monthly assistance to widows is being provided as family pension. Review of Family Pension is carried out based on recommendations of Pay Commissions and acceptance of the same by the Government. A Dearness Relief, which is assessed periodically may result in increase in the amount disbursed.
- (c): Yes, Sir. Government reviews the welfare measures for war widows and families of Armed Forces personnel from time to time. The details of revision/enhancement made in the schemes are at Annexure-II.
- (d) & (e): Yes, Sir.
 - (i) Officers: Vacancies are reserved for widows of Ex-Servicemen and Wards/Children of Battle Casualty in Officer Selection of Indian Army. They are given preference for Short Service Commission (Technical) and Short Service Commission (Non-Technical) Women entry. Relaxation upto the age of 35 years is also provided to the widows of defence personnel. The vacancies earmarked for various officer entries in Indian Army are as under: -

Sl. No.	Category	Entry	Vacancies
(i)	Widow of Defence Personnel	Short Service Commission (Non-Technical)	01 Vacancy
(ii)	Ward of Battle Casualty of Indian Army Personnel	SSC National Cadet Corps (NCC) Men	07 Vacancy
		SSC National Cadet Corps (NCC) Women	01 Vacancy

- (ii) Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs)/Other Ranks (OR): War widows of defence personnel who have died in harness are eligible to apply for enrolment as Women Military Police.
- (iii) Civil Defence Employment: As per instructions issued by DoP&T vide Office Memorandum (OM) No. 14014/1/2022-Estt(D) dated 02 Aug, 2022 on the subject, compassionate appointment can be granted to the dependent family member of Defence Civilian employee as well as Armed Forces Personnel only against Group 'C' direct recruitment post.

Housing Scheme: Army Welfare Housing Organisation has 3% quota reserved for the widows in each project.

ANNEXURE-I REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1159 FOR ANSWER ON 10.03.2025 REGARDING “SCHEMES FOR WIDOWS OF EX-SERVICEMEN”.

STATE/UT WISE WIDOWs OF ESM AS ON 31st DECEMBER, 2024

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Widows Registered
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	26879
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	211
3	ASSAM	10700
4	BIHAR	12558
5	CHHATTISGARH	1525
6	DELHI	14273
7	GOA	510
8	GUJARAT	5392
9	HARYANA	58083
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	40232
11	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	22761
12	JHARKHAND	5105
13	KARNATAKA	30552
14	KERALA	71570
15	MADHYA PRADESH	12506
16	MAHARASHTRA	67757
17	MANIPUR	2113
18	MEGHALAYA	1517
19	MIZORAM	2495
20	NAGALAND	993
21	ODISHA	5988
22	PUNJAB	75821
23	RAJASTHAN	61080
24	SIKKIM	416
25	TAMIL NADU	58283
26	TRIPURA	727
27	TELANGANA	8109
28	UTTRAKHAND	50285
29	UTTAR PRADESH	72071
30	WEST BENGAL	15808
31	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR (UT)	203
32	CHANDIGARH (UT)	2490
33	PUDUCHERRY (UT)	886
34	LADAKH (UT)	867
Total		740766

ANNEXURE-II REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1159 FOR ANSWER ON 10.03.2025 REGARDING “SCHEMES FOR WIDOWS OF EX-SERVICEMEN”.

Sl. No.	Scheme/Grants	Amount(in Rs.) enhanced w.e.f.
1.	Daughter's Marriage Grant (upto 02 Daughters) (Pensioner/Non-Pensioner upto Hav Rank) Widow Re-Marriage Grant (Pensioner/Non-Pensioner upto Hav Rank) * If married solemnly on or after 21 st April, 16.	Rs. 16000/- to Rs. 50,000/- w.e.f. April, 2016
2.	Penury Grant - 65 years and above for ESM & Widows (Non-Pensioners upto Hav or equivalent Rank)	Rs. 1000/- pm to Rs. 4000/- (Life time) w.e.f. April, 2017
3.	100% Disabled Child Upto JCO extended w.e.f. 01 st April, 2022	Rs. 1000/- pm to Rs. 3000/- pm W.e.f. 01 st April, 2021
4.	Orphan Grant (Pensioner/Non-Pensioner for All Ranks) • Daughters of ex-servicemen till she is married. • One Son of ex-servicemen upto 21 years of age.	Rs. 1000/- pm to Rs. 3000/- pm w.e.f. April, 2022
5.	Vocational Training Grant For Widows (Pensioner/Non-Pensioner upto Hav Rank)	Rs. 20000/- to Rs. 50,000/- (One Time) w.e.f. 11 August, 2023
6.	Medical Treatment Grant (Non-Pensioner upto Hav Rank)	Rs. 30000/- to Rs. 50,000/- (Max) w.e.f. 11 August, 2023
7.	Serious Diseases Grant (Applicable for all ranks of Non-Pensioners ESM for self and wife/widow)	Rs. 1.25 lakh to Rs. 1.50 lakh W.e.f. 11 August, 2023
8.	Subsidy on Home Loan. KSB Reimburses 50% of interest by way of subsidy on home loan from Bank/public sector institutions for construction of house to war bereaved, war disabled and attributable peace time casualties. Rs. 1,00,000/- (Max)	Rs. 1 lakh

9. Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme: Total 5500 scholarship are provided to eligible wards based on merit for the entire duration of the courses. With effect from FY 2019-20 the rates of Scholarship are as follows: -

- Rs. 2500/- per month for boys.
- Rs. 3000/- per month for girls.
