

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2613
ANSWERED ON 24/03/2025**

DEATH OF HOMELESS PEOPLE DUE TO EXPOSURE TO WINTER

2613. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly 450 homeless people have died in Delhi due to exposure to winter between 15th November 2024 to 10th January 2025;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent such incidents and provide housing to the homeless people of Delhi; and
- (d) the special provisions made by Government to bring respite to the homeless population of Delhi in the months of winter?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) & (b) The data on deaths due to cold weather and cold waves is not maintained centrally by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). However, as per the information received from Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) [Under Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi, GNCTD] and Delhi Police, no death has occurred in any Shelter Home between 15th November 2024 to 10th January 2025.

(c) & (d) The primary responsibility to provide shelters to the Urban Homeless population rests with the respective State/UT Governments. However, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) administers a Scheme for providing Shelter to Urban Homeless (SUH) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), through respective States/UTs. The scheme focuses on providing permanent shelters equipped with basic facilities to the urban homeless. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) issues advisories to States/UTs to prepare winter action plans and run temporary Shelters for Urban Homeless with necessary facilities to accommodate urban homeless during the winter. In coordination with Shelter Management Agencies (SMAs) Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) [under GNCTD], actively works to safeguard the homeless. Also, Rescue Teams patrol from 10 PM to 4 AM daily, ensuring no individual is left vulnerable.

Further, the following steps have been taken by DUSIB to bring respite to the homeless:-

- 1) A Winter Action Plan, implemented by DUSIB, gets operational from 15th November to 15th March each year which mainly focuses on providing accommodation to the homeless people of Delhi.
- 2) Special rescue drives are conducted in critical areas like Hanuman Temple, ISBT and Chandni Chowk.
- 3) Additionally, 200 Pagoda Tents are erected at approx. 50 locations for extra shelter during the winter season.
- 4) Homeless persons in Shelter Homes are provided with essential facilities like blankets, durries, drinking water, toilet facilities and three daily meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner) to ensure their comfort and well-being during the winter months.
