

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2592**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026

**PENSION AND WELFARE SUPPORT FOR WAR WIDOWS AND FAMILIES OF  
MARTYRS**

2592. MS SWATI MALIWAL

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of war widows and families of martyrs receiving pension under various Armed Forces Pension Rules, category-wise and rank-wise;
- (b) the average monthly pension disbursed to war widows and eligible family members, rank-wise, along with the total amount paid annually during the last five years;
- (c) the number of beneficiaries who have received ex-gratia or battle casualty compensation during the said period, along with the amount disbursed; and
- (d) the details of additional welfare measures extended to war widows and families of martyrs, including housing, medical facilities, educational support for children and employment assistance?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

- (a) The number of widows and families of martyrs drawing Liberalised Family Pension (LFP) through SPARSH, as on 31.01.2026, under Category D and E is **8329** and **1368** respectively. The detailed breakup is attached at **Annexure-I (table-1)**.
- (b) There is no concept of average pension since amount of pension is dependent upon rank, pay last drawn, degrees of disablement and nature of award. However, the amount of LFP disbursed through SPARSH in the month of Feb 2026 is **Rs 9,91,71,086** for ICOs (**Indian Commissioned Officers**) and **Rs. 59,70,85,819** for JCOs (**Junior Commissioned Officers**)/Ors (**Other Ranks**). The rank wise detail is attached at **Annexure-I (table-2)**. The total amount paid annually during the last five years combined is **Rs 19,16,26,84,026 (Rs 1916.27 cr approx)**
- (c) The number of beneficiaries to whom ex-gratia lumpsum has been sanctioned through SPARSH in the last five years is 930 and the corresponding total ex-gratia lumpsum is to **Rs. 293.20 cr**.
- (d) Various welfare measures/ schemes are extended by DGR (Directorate General Resettlement) and KSB (Kendriya Sainik Board). The details are placed at **Annexure II and III**. Further to provide medical assistance the war widows are exempted from one-time Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS contribution) towards ECHS membership through which medical facilities are provided. War widows have also been facilitated with the facility of home delivery of Authorized Local Chemist Medicines. In addition to this Air Force Naval Housing Board (AFNHB), (a welfare organization) gives first priority for allotment of a dwelling unit to widows of martyred Air force and Naval personnel in ongoing AFNHB housing schemes on actual cost basis without deriving any benefit.

**ANNEXURE I REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2592 FOR 16.03.2026 REGARDING PENSION AND WELFARE SUPPORT FOR WAR WIDOWS AND FAMILIES OF MARTYRS.**

**a** Number of widows and families of martyrs drawing Liberalised Family Pension through SPARSH, as on 31.01.2026, under Category D & E (as per GoI letter dated 31.01.2001 as amended from time to time) are as under –

**Table-1**

<b>ICOs</b>			
<b>Rank in Army (and equivalent ranks in Navy and Air Force)</b>	<b>Count of spouse drawing LFP</b>	<b>Count of families drawing LFP other than spouse</b>	
Lt	23	2	
Capt	83	1	
Major	220	2	
Lt Col	72		
Col	40		
Brig	10		
Maj Gen	3	1	
<b>JCOs/ORs</b>			
Sepoy	4,606	1,265	
Naik	1,504	67	
Havildar	1,081	21	
Artificer	2		
Nb Sub	343	5	
Sub	326	4	
Sub Maj	13		
Hony Lt	2		
Hony Capt	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,329</b>	<b>1,368</b>	

**b** Rank-wise Liberalised Family Pension disbursed through SPARSH in the month of Feb 2026 is as under :-

**Table-2**

<b>ICOs</b>		<b>JCOs/ORs</b>	
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Amount Disbursed</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Amount Disbursed</b>
Lt	35,60,288	Sepoy	32,25,00,722
Capt	1,38,04,248	Naik	10,83,48,593
Major	4,14,02,356	Havildar	9,42,88,046
Lt Col	2,08,25,641	Artificer	1,47,965
Col	1,42,38,478	Nb Sub	3,55,50,647
Brig	38,99,486	Sub	3,37,44,930
Maj Gen	12,03,588	Sub Maj	21,09,358
General	2,37,000	Hony Lt	3,95,558
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,91,71,086</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>59,70,85,819</b>

**ANNEXURE II REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2592 FOR 16.03.2026 REGARDING PENSION AND WELFARE SUPPORT FOR WAR WIDOWS AND FAMILIES OF MARTYRS.**

1. DGR has no schemes exclusively earmarked for the war widows, widows and their families. However, DGR runs following Re-settlement and Skill Development Training schemes for which widows of Armed Forces Personnel and widows & Dependents of Ex-servicemen are also eligible: -

(a) **Coal Tipper Attachment Scheme for Widows/ Disabled and Dependents of Ex-Servicemen as Beneficiaries.** Disabled soldiers/widows & dependents of ex-servicemen pay a seed money of Rupees One Lakh and they get monthly reimbursement of Rs.3,000/-. At the end of contract, Rupees One Lakh is returned to the widows/ Disabled Soldiers.

(b) **Allotment of Safal Outlets.** Safal outlets, a subsidiary of Mother Dairy Private Limited comprising of Fruit & Vegetable Shops are provided to Widows/ Dependents of service personnel who passed away in service / Ex-servicemen. The same is only applicable in Delhi & NCR Region.

(c) **Issue of DGR Eligibility Certificate for allotment of Oil Product Agencies advertised under 8% Reserved Quota.** The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has reserved 8% quota for allotment of LPG Distributorship and Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets for Defence personnel which also include Widows/dependents of members of Armed Forces who died in war or in harness due to attributable or aggravated causes to Military Service. *The eligibility certificate, certifying an individual's eligibility to apply for the above distributorship, is issued by the office of DGR to eligible persons. The final selection/allotment is done by the concerned Oil Company as per their policy in vogue on the subject issue.*

(d) **Skill Development (Resettlement Training) Courses.** Directorate General Resettlement is mandated to conduct skill development (resettlement training) course for retiring / retired officers, JCOs/ OR & Equivalent of Indian Army, Navy & Air Force at various training institutes of India. There is also a built-in provision for widows to undergo above stated skill development training courses. Towards this, **a quota 3% of vacancies** are reserved for them in each financial year.

2. The existing quota of reservations available for Ex-Servicemen (ESM) in **Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in which widows can apply** are as follows: -

(a) **Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs):**

(i) 14.5% in all Direct Recruitment Group 'C' Posts.

(ii) 24.5% in all Direct Recruitment Group 'D' Posts.

**(Including 4.5% for Disabled ESM and Dependents of Service personnel killed in action)**

(b) **Central Civil Services & Posts (CCS&P) of Central Government Ministries/ Departments and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs):**

The benefit of reservation has been extended to two dependents (including widows) and given Priority II-A to secure a job in Group 'C' & 'D' categories of posts under Central Govt Organizations.

**ANNEXURE III REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2592 FOR 16.03.2026 PENSION AND WELFARE SUPPORT FOR WAR WIDOWS AND FAMILIES OF MARTYRS.**

<b>Sr</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Amount (in Rs)</b>
1	<b>Penury Grant</b> (65 Yrs and above) (Non-Pensioners upto Hav Rank)	Rs 8,000/-pm
2	<b>Education Grant</b> (upto two children) (i) Boys/Girls upto Graduation (ii) Widows for PG (Pensioner/Non-Pensioner upto Hav Rank) and upto two children	Rs 2,000/-pm
3	<b>Disabled Children Grant</b> (Pensioner/Non-pen upto JCO Rank)	Rs 3,000/-pm
4	<b>Daughter's Marriage Grant</b> (upto 02 Daughters) (Pensioner/Non-Pen upto Hav Rank)	Rs 1,00,000/-
	<b>Widow Re-Marriage Grant</b> (Pensioner/Non-Pen upto Hav Rank)	
5	<b>Medical Treatment Grant</b> (Non-pensioner upto Hav Rank)	Rs 50,000/- (Max)
6	<b>Orphan Grant</b> (Pensioner/Non-pen All Ranks) • Daughters of ex-servicemen till she is married. • One Son of ESM upto 21 years of age.	Rs 3,000/- pm
7	<b>Vocational Trg Grant for Widows</b> (Pensioner/non-Pen upto Hav Rank)	Rs 50,000/- (One Time)
8	<b>Serious Diseases as listed below: -</b> Angioplasty & Angiography, CABG, Open Heart Surgery, Valve Replacement, Pacemaker Implant, Cerebral stroke, Prostrate Surgery, Joint Replacement and Renal Failure.  <b>Other Diseases:</b> Dialysis and Cancer treatment  (Applicable to Non pensioners ESM/widows/Dependents for wife of ESM in all ranks)	75% & 90% of total expenditure for officers & PBORs respectively. Upto Rs 1.50 Lakh (max).  75% & 90% of total expenditure for officers & PBORs respectively. Upto a max of Rs 75,000/- per annum for Cancer and Dialysis.
9	<b>Modified Scooter to Disabled Ex-servicemen applicable upto JCO rank.</b> ESM who are disabled after service with a disability 50% or more.	Rs 1,00,000 (re-apply after 10 yrs)
10	<b>Interest Subsidy on Home Loan applicable upto JCO rank.</b> Reimbursement of 50% interest charged by the banks or Govt/Public Sector including LIC, GIC and HUDCO etc for construction of house to War bereaved, War disabled and attributable peace time casualties.	Rs 1,00,000 max (one time)

2. **Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme:** Total 5500 scholarship are provided annually to eligible wards based on merit for the entire duration of the courses. The rates of scholarship are as follows: -

- (a) Rs. 2500/- per month for boys  
 (a) Rs. 3000/- per month for girls

3. **Financial support to institutions involved in rehabilitation of ESM:-**

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Quantum of Aid/Grant</u>
1	<b>Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centers</b> (i) Kirkee (ii) Mohali	<b>Establishment grant (per annum)</b>  (i)Rs 1.20 Cr wef Apr 2016  (ii)Rs 10 lakh (wef Apr 2015)
2	All India Gorkha Ex-servicemen welfare association, Dehradun	Rs. 12 lakh per annum (enhanced to Rs 18 lakh per annum wef FY 2026-27).
3	<b>Cheshire Homes</b> (i) Lucknow (ii) Dehradun (iii) Delhi	Rs 15,000/- per annum per inmate
4	<b>War Memorial Hostels.</b> There are 36 WMHs which provide shelter to the children of War Widows/War disabled, attributable and non attributable cases.	Rs 1350/- per child per month

4. **Reservation of seats in Medical/Dental Colleges for wards of Defence Personnel as Govt of India Nominee.** A total of 42 MBBS seats and 3 seats in BDS courses for FY 2025-26 were allotted by Ministry of Health Family Welfare to KSB for wards of defence personnel as a Govt of India nominee.

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