

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

SCHEMES FOR DESTITUTE WOMEN

201. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women particularly widows, divorcee and destitute in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, district-wise;
- (b) the details of the schemes/programmes being run for the welfare, rehabilitation, empowerment, education and providing employment to such women;
- (c) the funds sanctioned, released and utilized by the States/UTs for the said purpose during each of the last five years and the current year;
- (d) the number of beneficiaries thereunder during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the other measures being taken by the Government for the empowerment of the said women?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The State Government of Maharashtra has informed that such statistical data is not maintained by the State.

As per Census 2011, the number of widowed and divorced women in the country State/UT-wise, including Maharashtra, is at **Annexure-I**. The Government is implementing various schemes and programmes for empowerment of women including destitute women, which are as follows:

Shakti Sadan: Under the overarching Mission Shakti, Swadhar Greh for Women in difficult circumstances and Ujjawala Homes for Prevention of Trafficking have been merged and known as Shakti Sadan Scheme which is an Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home for women in distress situations including trafficked women. The Shakti Sadan Scheme specifically designed to cater to the destitute and women in difficult circumstances. It is a demand driven centrally sponsored scheme, under which funds are directly released to the States/UTs for implementation of the scheme. It aims at creating a safe and enabling environment for the women in distress situations, to enable them to overcome the difficult circumstances. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for running of Shakti Sadan in rented premises.

Home for Widows has been set up in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh with a capacity of 1,000 residents to provide a safe and secure place of stay, health services, nutritious food, legal and counselling services.

One Stop Centres (OSCs), popularly known as *Sakhi* Centres, aim to facilitate women affected by violence (including domestic violence) with a range of integrated services under one roof such as Police facilitation, medical aid, legal aid and legal counselling, psycho-social counselling, temporary shelter, etc.

Women Helpline (WHL) Scheme provides 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence, both in public and private spaces by linking them with appropriate authority such as Police, One Stop Centre, Hospital, Legal Services, etc. WHL also supports women in distress with rescue van and counselling services in addition to providing information about women welfare schemes and programs across the country. Women can dial 181 short code to avail services from Women Helpline.

Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme: Under this scheme, widow pension is provided to the widows belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. This is a sub-scheme under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) of Ministry of Rural Development. Under the scheme, central assistance @ Rs. 300/- per month is provided to widows in the age group of 40-79 years and the pension amount is enhanced to Rs 500/- per month on attaining 80 years.

The **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** is a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme targeting the destitute to be identified by the States and UTs with the objective of providing a basic level of financial support. Under NSAP, central assistance of Rs. 200 – 300/- is provided in pension to senior citizens (60 years and above), widows (40-79 years) and for disabled persons.

Ayushman Bharat Programme with its twin pillars of Health and Wellness Centres and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), provides coverage to poor and vulnerable families and this would also help improve women's access to health care services.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) seeks to ensure employment in rural households, mandating that at least one third of the jobs generated should be given to women. The MGNREGA Guidelines have also made special provisions to encourage the participation of women, including giving preference to women (especially single women) and older persons for work on worksites nearer to their residences, child care facilities at the worksite in case more than five children under 6 years of age are present, adequate representation of women in the MGNREGS staff, ensuring that widows, deserted women and destitute women are provided 100 days of work, awareness and outreach activities to ensure that all wage seekers (including women) are able to handle bank procedures, treating pregnant and lactating mothers as a special category and provision of suitable work for them etc.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) has been launched to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers who are not covered by any other pension scheme. The unorganised workers including women, 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 occupation whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been initiated by Government, inter alia, for facilitation self-employment. Under PMMY, collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities which include women.

Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY-G): This scheme aims to provide 'Housing for All' through provision of pucca house with basic amenities to all house less households and households living in kutchha and dilapidated house in rural areas. This will also benefit the neglected, abandoned and destitute widows.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY-U): Under this scheme, central assistance is provided to States/UTs for addressing the housing requirement of economically Weaker Sections (EWS) including slum dwellers in the urban areas.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY): This scheme is implemented with an objective to create a universal social security system for all, especially the poor, under privileged and workers in the unorganized sector. The scheme is open to all citizens of India between 18-40 years of age having a saving bank account in a bank or post office.

Integrated Programme for Older Persons: The objective of the Scheme is to improve the quality of life of the Senior Citizens, including women, by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing through providing support for capacity building of State/ UT Governments/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/ local bodies and the community at large.

Also, the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the three Missions namely, 'Mission Poshan' 2.0, 'Mission Shakti' and 'Mission Vatsalya' focuses towards betterment and empowerment of women and children.

The details of funds released to the States/UTs during the last five financial years and the current financial year is at **Annexure-II**. The State/UT-wise number of beneficiaries under Shakti Sadan is at **Annexure-III**.

Annexure-I

Annexure with regard to reply to Parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 201 for answer on 02.02.2024 regarding Schemes for Destitute Women asked by Shri Gajanan Kirtikar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (LS).

Number of Widowed and Divorced Women in the Country*

Female of all ages		
	Widowed	Divorced
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	12525	279
ANDHRA PRADESH	4297481	66691
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	31787	1189
ASSAM	1156042	45722
BIHAR	2238793	14760
CHANDIGARH	24496	863
CHHATTISGARH	973787	30871
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	7378	348
DAMAN & DIU	6816	249
GOA	77935	858
GUJARAT	2015742	88753
HARYANA	773297	7720
HIMACHAL PRADESH	293475	4549
JAMMU & KASHMIR	283650	11081
JHARKHAND	1027878	12672
KARNATAKA	2989429	27959
KERALA	2010984	46856
LAKSHADWEEP	2448	296
MADHYA PRADESH	2160609	44272
MAHARASHTRA	4520764	154274
MANIPUR	77990	4483
MEGHALAYA	84825	7017
MIZORAM	28569	11068
NAGALAND	39496	4150
NCT OF DELHI	456613	10805
ODISHA	1612627	29845
PUDUCHERRY	73579	1060
PUNJAB	928158	18471
RAJASTHAN	1983634	23758
SIKKIM	13717	676
TAMIL NADU	3856398	45185
TRIPURA	164969	6308
UTTAR PRADESH	4856188	56819
UTTARAKHAND	387215	3922
WEST BENGAL	3792184	125744
TOTAL	43261478	909573

*Census 2011

Annexure II

Annexure with regard to reply to Parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 201 for answer on 02.02.2024 regarding Schemes for Destitute Women asked by Shri Gajanan Kirtikar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (LS).

Shakti Sadan

Details of funds released to the States/UTs during the last five financial years and the current financial year

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	States/UTs	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24*
	Andhra Pradesh	0	190.93	0	0	0	146.97
	Assam	152.60	143.51	0	0	138.60	646.23
	Andaman & Nicobar Island	7.27	7.27	3.96	7.26	0	0
	Arunachal Pradesh	18.05	9.69	10.48	11.83	0	0
	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chandigarh	6.64	7.99	8.45	0	26.82	0
	Chhattisgarh	30.25	22.95	22.89	20.75	0	100.61
	Delhi	16.10	18.38	13.10	0	0	27.84
	Haryana	3.39	0	0	0	0	0
	Goa	0	0	0	2.68	0	0
	Gujarat	0	18.31	15.26	0	0	0
	Himachal Pradesh	0	5.45	3.35	9.13	3.23	39.94
	Jharkhand	0	18.17	0	0	0	0
	Jammu & Kashmir	36.20	38.87	27.76	25.64	0	10.38
	Karnataka	274.35	221.67	301.31	639.98	0	0
	Kerala	69.59	32.26	71.11	46.02	0	49.46
	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Madhya Pradesh	46.09	162.05	53.01	74.35	23.17	341.51
	Mizoram	81.09	71.97	0	137.69	0	0
	Manipur	424.30	267.08	313.74	0	1062.38	0
	Meghalaya	0	0	36.36	20.74	0	0
	Nagaland	25.69	13.08	0	0	0	0
	Odisha	456.79	286.73	642.96	473.83	132.38	246.10
	Punjab	8.00	9.58	-	-	0	0
	Puducherry	20.06	7.99	21.17	10.80	0	0
	Rajasthan	0	87.19	-	-	0	0
	Sikkim	6.72	10.64	10.47	10.65	0	4.09
	Tamil Nadu	409.75	160.12	432.35	0	0	445.87
	Telangana	116.09	299.16	205.26	0	0	156.97
	Tripura	46.23	26.17	84.60	49.28	0	0
	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	100.41	90.20	158.25	0
	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
	West Bengal	0	0	155.67	218.84	0	720.35

*Till January, 2024

Annexure III

Annexure with regard to reply to Parts (c) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 201 for answer on 02.02.2024 regarding Schemes for Destitute Women asked by Shri Gajanan Kirtikar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (LS).

Shakti Sadan**Number of Beneficiaries**

S. No.	State/UT	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23*
1	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	8	9	9	3
2	Andhra Pradesh	780	901	433	438	564
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	16	22	22	24
4	Assam	510	510	242	242	588
5	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	30	17	8	11	10
7	Chhattisgarh	90	84	46	52	38
8	Delhi	60	33	41	41	59
9	Goa	0	0	0	0	44
10	Gujarat	120	120	117	117	121
11	Haryana	30	0	0	0	0
12	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	9	9	18
13	Jammu & Kashmir	90	160	27	27	46
14	Jharkhand	90	14	18	18	79
15	Karnataka	1380	1383	1462	1445	1928
16	Kerala	210	473	165	165	162
17	Madhya Pradesh	240	240	273	273	347
18	Maharashtra	1500	1500	126	126	257
19	Manipur	690	664	431	431	1385
20	Mizoram	330	112	90	88	125
21	Meghalaya	60	60	15	15	265
22	Nagaland	60	60	34	34	23
23	Odisha	2340	2340	1667	1667	1950
24	Puducherry	30	30	10	10	0
25	Punjab	60	30	34	34	24
26	Rajasthan	180	180	18	203	187
27	Sikkim	30	22	864	18	17
28	Tamil Nadu	1050	1050	389	864	967
29	Telangana	570	831	64	389	423
30	Tripura	120	120	344	64	83
31	Uttar Pradesh	390	390	0	342	385
32	Uttarakhand	120	120	806	0	17
33	West Bengal	1440	1440	64	802	816
	Total	12638	12908	7828	7956	10955

*known as Shakti Sadan w. e. f. 01.04.2022
