

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4168**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019

**RELIEF FOR WIDOWS**

4168. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to enact a suitable law to provide relief and support to safeguard approximately 4.5 crore widows living in distress in the country:
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Currently, no such matter is under consideration in the Ministry. There are a number of Schemes being implemented by various Ministries of the Government of India through States Governments/UT Administrations which address the common needs of widows also. While some schemes cover a broader segment of population of which widows constitute a part, there are widow specific schemes also. The major schemes of Government of India in this regard are as under:-

- I. **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)**:-The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under which Pension Scheme for Widows as well as Pension Scheme for the Elderly below poverty line are operated. A monthly central assistance of Rs. 300 is provided to the BPL widows of age-group 40-79 years and Rs. 500 is provided to the widows of age of 80 or higher.
- II. **Swadhar Greh Scheme**:-The Ministry of Women and Child Development implements SwadharGreh Scheme which envisions a supportive institutional framework for women victims of difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity and conviction.
- III. **Home for Widows**:-A Home for Widows has been setup in Vrindavan, UP with a capacity of 1000 inmates to provide widows a safe and secure place of stay, health services, nutritious food, legal and counseling services.
- IV. **National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)**:-The Ministry of Rural Development implements National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) under which monetary grant of Rs. 20,000 is given as lump sum assistance to the bereaved household in the event of death of the bread-winner.

- V. **Annapurna Scheme**:-Under Annapurna Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development, 10 kg of food grain is given to those eligible aged persons who have remained uncovered under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).
- VI. **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana**:-The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana under National Rural Livelihood Mission of the Ministry of Rural Development aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor.
- VII. **Intergrated Programme for Older Persons**:-The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements Intergrated Programme for Older Persons to improve the quality of life of senior citizens.
- VIII. **Assistance for vocational training of widows of ex-servicemen**:- The Ministry of Defence provides financial assistance for vocational training of widows of ex-servicemen, treatment of serious diseases of non-pensioner ex-servicemen/widows and daughter's marriage/widows' remarriage.
- IX. **The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act**:-by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been enacted to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare. The Act provides inter-alia for Maintenance of parents/ senior citizens by children/ relatives made obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals, revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of neglect by relatives, penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens, establishment of Old Age Homes for indigent Senior Citizens, adequate medical facilities and security for Senior Citizens.

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