

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.3262
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2020

REMARRIAGE OF WIDOWS

3262: SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to encourage widow remarriage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : There are a number of schemes being implemented by various Ministries of the Government of India through State Governments/UT Administrations which address various concerns of widows. 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 the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under which Pension Scheme for Widows as well as Pension Scheme for the Elderly below poverty line is 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 Swadhar Greh Scheme which envisions a supportive institutional framework for women victims of difficult circumstances including widows so that they could lead their life with dignity and conviction.

III. Home for Widows:- 'Krishna Kutir', Home for Widows has been set up 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 counselling 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. 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.