

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4281**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

**WIDOW REMARRIAGE BENEFICIARIES**

4281. SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the salient features of the Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries who received financial assistance under this scheme so far;
- (c) whether any special campaign is being run by the Government to create social awareness for remarriage and to promote remarriage in rural areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide employment training and take other empowerment measures for the beneficiaries after remarriage, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any special plan to expand the scheme to reach 5 lakh beneficiaries by 2025;
- (f) whether any measures have been taken by the Government to provide education and health facilities to the children of couples remarrying under the scheme; and
- (g) whether the Government proposes any partnership programme with non-governmental organizations and community groups for effective implementation, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (g): Various State Governments have the schemes for Widow Remarriage. But, at the Central Government level, there is no such scheme.

However, there are a number of schemes being implemented by various Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India across the country for social and economic empowerment of women, including widows. Some of the major schemes/ programmes in this regard are as follows:-

(i) The Ministry of Women and Child Development during the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission period with effect from the financial year 2022-23, is implementing Centrally Sponsored, Mission Shakti for safety, security and empowerment of women. Under Mission Shakti, there is a component of Shakti Sadan which provides necessary assistance including shelter, food, vocational training for destitute women and women in difficult circumstances. Further, Sakhi Niwas component of Mission Shakti provides for affordable and safe accommodation for working women and women pursuing higher education or training for employment and entrepreneurship.

(ii) **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** have been implemented to provide social protection through insurance coverage and pension.

(iii) In order to reduce drudgery and enhance the ease of living for the women particularly in the rural areas, under the Swacch Bharat Mission **more than 11.6 crore toilets** have been constructed, **10.3 crore** households have been provided **Clean cooking fuel** through Ujjawala Yojana and **safe and potable tap water** connection to **nearly 15 crore households** through Jal Jeevan Mission.

(iv) **Prime Minister Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U)** aim to provide 'Housing for All' through provision of pucca house with basic amenities to all houseless families and households living in kutcha and dilapidated house in rural areas and the housing requirement of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) including slum dwellers in the urban areas.

(v) Under **Ayushman Bharat**, the Government is providing free of cost treatment through over 1200 medical packages to over 55 crore citizens. Out of these, over 141 medical packages are exclusively designed for addressing medical needs of women. Seven types of screening (TB, Hypertension, Diabetes, Oral Cancer, Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer and Cataract) are provided under the scheme, which have benefitted crores of women. There are over 150,000 Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), also referred to as Ayushman Arogya Mandir, in both urban and rural areas, bring health care closer to the community. **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY)** is the world's largest public funded health assurance scheme, with special focus on poor and disadvantaged women.

(vi) There are over 13,000 **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJK)** functional across the country. The PMBJK besides providing affordable medicines and medical devices, including about 40 women specific

items also have provision for sale of Sanitary Napkins named 'Suvidha Sanitary Napkins' at extremely affordable price of Rupee 1 per pad.

(vii) Under **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) and Prime Minister's Internship Scheme**, skill development and vocational training is provided to women.

(viii) Women are also the largest beneficiaries under **Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojna (PM-JDY)** one of the largest financial inclusion initiatives in the world which also provides access to direct benefits under various welfare schemes, credit and insurance services.

(ix) Schemes such as **Stand Up India, MUDRA Yojna, Start-up India, Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGMSE)** provides employment/ self-employment and credit facilities. Majority of the beneficiaries under these schemes are women.

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