

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4349
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

WIDOW REMARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

4349. SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP:
SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme in the country, if so, the details including the salient features, goal and objectives thereof;
- (b) the details of the beneficiaries under the said scheme along with outcomes in terms of improved social and economic empowerment particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;
- (c) the details of the eligibility criteria of the beneficiaries under the said scheme along with manner in which the scheme is designed to address the specific needs of widows in underserved areas of the country especially in the Maharashtra; and
- (d) whether the scheme had any impact specifically in Jalgaon district, if so, the details of the well being and social integration of widows in the region?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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 15th 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.
