

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3319
TO BE ANSWERED ON MARCH 20, 2025
HOUSING / SHELTERS FOR COLD WEATHER

NO. 3319. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware that approximately 6,55,400 deaths occur annually in India due to exposure to extreme cold;**
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate housing and shelter for vulnerable populations during the financial years 2019 to 2024;**
- (c) the details of the studies conducted to identify the regions most affected by cold-related fatalities, if any;**
- (d) whether region-specific housing or shelter initiatives have been developed, if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the Union Government has taken any measures in coordination with the State Governments or NGOs to provide winter clothing, blankets and heating facilities to individuals living in poverty or make shift shelters;**
- (f) if so, the progress and outcomes of these initiatives to mitigate the impact of cold weather on the vulnerable population; and**
- (g) whether the Government has proposed any special package for Amritsar and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)

- (a):The Government is aware of the challenges of extreme cold conditions, including their impact on vulnerable populations. The data on deaths due to cold weather and cold waves is not maintained by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**

(b): It is the primary responsibility of Government of the States/ Union Territories to provide shelters for the urban homeless. However, in order to supplement their efforts, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs administered Scheme for Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), through respective States/UTs. It focused on providing permanent shelters equipped with basic facilities to the urban homeless. The mission was in existence till September 2024. Also, MoHUA issues advisories to select States/UTs to prepare winter action plans and run temporary Shelters for Urban Homeless with necessary facilities to accommodate urban homeless during the winter.

(c): No such study has been conducted by MoHUA.

(d): As per the SUH guidelines, systematic third-party surveys are to be undertaken in cities/towns by the local/municipal bodies to assess accurately the need for shelters at suitable locations. Shelters may cater to the most vulnerable groups within the homeless populations such as (a) single women and their dependent minor children, (b) aged, (c) infirm, (d) disabled, (e) mentally challenged, etc. An actual break-up would depend on local particularities, and size of the city, and the total number of shelters. States/ULBs may consider setting up separate shelters to cater the special needs such as Shelter for Men, Women, Families, and Special Shelter (for old persons without care, mentally or physically challenged etc).

SUH guidelines prescribe establishing permanent shelters of concrete or durable and weather-proof alternate structures, with environmentally friendly designs, rain water harvesting, solar heating/ lighting facilities etc.

(e) to (g): Under DAY-NULM, this Ministry issues advisory to select States / UTs regarding winter action plan to accommodate urban homeless before harsh conditions of winter set in. It includes arrangement of temporary shelters, conduct of mobilization drives to mobilize homeless persons to the shelters etc.

No specific package has been announced for Amritsar for extreme cold under DAY-NULM.