

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 911  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.04.2016

**PENSION TO WIDOWS**

**911. SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:  
DR. SHASHI THAROOR:**

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the dismal living conditions of Vrindavan widows, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the implementation of the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) including the total number of beneficiaries who have received pension in the last three years, State/UTwise;
- (c) whether the Government is likely to implement the recommendations of the Task Force and increase the quantum of pension from the current INR 200 per month, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to extend the scheme to cover widows below the age of 40 years and half-widows or women whose husbands are missing or have disappeared but are not confirmed dead, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)**

(a): The Government is aware about the dismal living conditions of Vrindavan widows. Ministry of Women & Child Development has informed that a Scheme "Swadhar" was launched by the Ministry of Women & Child Development during the year 2001-02 for the benefit of women in difficult circumstances. Another scheme, namely "Short Stay Home" which is similar in nature as Swadhar scheme is being implemented through Central Social Welfare Board since 1969. The Swadhar and Short Stay Homes Schemes have now been merged and revised as "Swadhar Greh" w.e.f. 1-1-2016. From 1-1-2016 funds are to be channelized to Implementing agencies through State Governments. Swadhar Greh Scheme targets the women victims of unfortunate circumstances who are in need on institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity. The scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for the women victims of difficult circumstances. It is pertinent to mention that this scheme caters to all women who are in difficult circumstances including widows.

There are presently 5 Swadhar Homes at Vrindavan with 515 inmates. Apart from these Swadhar homes, a Home, for the widows, at Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan, with capacity of 1000 inmates, is now being constructed by Central Government through NBCC. The State of Uttar Pradesh has informed that the Uttar Pradesh Mahila Kalyan Nigam is operating the Mahila Ashrams in Vrindavan (Mathura) for destitute widows. Identification of beneficiaries, sanction and disbursement of benefit under the schemes of NSAP is done by the State/UTs.

(b): Under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), pension / Central assistance of Rs. 300/- per month is provided to widows in the age-group of 40-79 years and belonging to the below poverty line(BPL) household as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary would be shifted to Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) for getting pension of Rs. 500/- per month. States/UTs have been requested to contribute at least an equal amount under IGNWPS. The State /UT wise details of widows covered during last three years are at **Annexure.**

(c) & (d): The Central assistance under IGNWPS was increased from Rs.200/- to Rs. 300/- per month on 08<sup>th</sup> November 2012. At present the Government is not likely to implement the recommendations of the Task Force and extend the scheme to cover widows below the age of 40 years and 'half widows' or women whose husbands are missing or have disappeared but are not confirmed dead.

Keeping in view the scarce Government resources and present budgetary allocation the financial assistance under the schemes of NSAP is provided only to the most vulnerable i.e. persons belonging to Below Poverty Line(BPL) household

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**Annexure**

**Annexure referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Uns Q. No. 911 for reply on 28-04-2016  
Details of No. of beneficiaries reported under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme by  
States/UTs  
during the last three years**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of beneficiaries reported		
		2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
1	Andhra Pradesh	631706	245607	245485
2	Bihar	506563	568755	601590
3	Chhattisgarh	138285	138285	145588
4	Goa	NR	NR	NR
5	Gujarat	6730	6997	7201
6	Haryana	45108	45108	57149
7	Himachal Pradesh	19593	20136	20933
8	J & K	NR	NR	8334
9	Jharkhand	240899	291649	272108
10	Karnataka	465363	558653	558653
11	Kerala	831376	918039	NR
12	Madhya Pradesh	432537	485599	891434
13	Maharashtra	31330	43603	46562
14	Orissa	528570	528570	524570
15	Punjab	835	NR	NR
16	Rajasthan	119997	118898	145185
17	Tamilnadu	649383	585807	NR
18	Telangana		175530	103839
19	Uttar Pradesh	432287	510110	510110
20	Uttarakhand	13037	15470	16907
21	West Bengal	951717	829105	828021

**NE States**

22	Arunachal Pradesh	1849	NR	NR
23	Assam	111477	111494	111477
24	Manipur	4376	NR	NR
25	Meghalaya	6837	7324	7152
26	Mizoram	1925	2310	2310
27	Nagaland	3720	4464	1396
28	Sikkim	NR	1123	558
29	Tripura	17927	19879	NR
	<b>Sub Total</b>	6193427	6232515	5106562

**UTs**

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30	A&N Islands	NR	NR	NR
31	Chandigarh	2610	NR	2768
32	D&N Haveli	NR	NR	NR
33	Daman & Diu	1025	NR	NR
34	NCT Delhi	NR	90734	106775
35	Lakshadweep	NR	NR	NR
36	Pondicherry	NR	9947	28222
	<b>Sub Total</b>	3635	100681	137765
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6197062</b>	<b>6333196</b>	<b>5244327</b>

**NR : Not Reported**