

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4340  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005  
STATUS OF WAR WIDOWS  
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the widows of soldiers who sacrificed their lives during various operations before January 1, 1999 are not being given the status of war widows;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

**Answer**

(SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ)  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

- (a) No, Sir. When a soldier dies in any operation, there is a system of declaring him as a battle casualty as per the prescribed procedure. Widows of such battle casualties are commonly known as war widows.
- (b) & (c): Various benefits are given to the war widows/next of kin of the battle casualties depending on the nature of the operations.