

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3395

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014

DESTITUTE CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram;Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay;Sreeramulu Shri B.

**Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has launched / proposes to launch any programme/drive to identify poor / widow / orphans / neglected / destitute women and children in the country and to provide them education and employment opportunities in order to bring them in the mainstream, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes / programmes being implemented by the Government for welfare and rehabilitation of such women and children in the country along with the number of beneficiaries thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the funds provided by the Government under the said schemes/programmes have declined during the said period, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the funds allocated, sanctioned, released and utilization reported by the States during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the cases of sexual exploitation against such women and children have come to the notice of the Government during the said period, if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government for welfare and rehabilitation of such women and children and to provide momentum to the schemes / programmes being implemented in this regard in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to (c): Government is sensitive to the problems of poor /neglected / destitute women and children including widows. The Ministry is administering two shelter based schemes i.e. Swadhar and Short Stay Homes (SSHs) for women in difficult circumstances. The Schemes are Central Sector Schemes where the implementing agencies are mainly NGOs. The Swadhar Scheme addresses the specific vulnerabilities of each group of women in difficult circumstances through home based holistic and integrated approach. Short Stay Home scheme provides 24 hours residential temporary accommodation for maintenance and rehabilitation services to women and girls rendered homeless due to family discord, crimes, violence etc. There are 321 Short Stay Homes and 311 Swadhar Shelter Homes functioning across the country to provide shelter and other services to women in need. The details of funds released under Short Stay Homes and Swadhar during the last 3 years and current year State/UT wise including number of beneficiaries are at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

The Government through the Ministry of Women and Child Development has also been administering the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) through State Governments / UT Admns. with the objective of creating safe and protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, including poor/orphans/neglected/destitute children across the country. Under ICPS, financial support is provided for setting up and maintenance of various types of homes and open shelters run by States/UTs or by voluntary organisations. The State/UT wise details of funds released and beneficiaries covered during the last 3 years and current year in respect of ICPS is at Annexure-III. The funds released are utilized, however, the unspent balance, if any, is adjusted from the eligible Grant for the subsequent year.

Funds are released under various schemes based on the receipt of Utilisation Certificates of previous grants and progress of expenditure.

(d): No such instances of serious nature have come to the notice of the Government.

(e) From time to time State Governments / UT Administrations are requested to get the Homes inspected and send their recommendations for release of Grants.