

- (v) On the request of this Ministry, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have issued instructions to all State Governments to ensure provision of separate queues for older persons in hospitals at every stage and the other request of the Ministry for inclusion of geriatrics in the medical curricula of the country is under their consideration.
- (vi) At the initiative of this Ministry, a Telephone Helpline has been started by an NGO called Agewell with the financial assistance from this Ministry.
- (vii) A Secretariat for NCOP which would also process and take follow-up action on the representations/complaints/grievances of older persons has been established by Age Well Foundation on the initiative and with the financial assistance of this Ministry.
- (viii) Ministry of Telecommunications has announced grant of telephone connections to older persons on priority basis.
- (ix) Ministry of Rural Development is considering launching of a new scheme called ANNAPURNA under which free foodgrains upto 10 Kgs are to be provided to older persons.

Grants to NGOs Running Educational Centre for Tribal Women

*19. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether financial assistance is being granted to some voluntary organisations and NGOs running educational centres for tribal women in different parts of the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof, and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As many as NGOs have been assisted for setting up and running of Educational Complexes in 10 States of the Country having less than 10% literacy amongst the tribal women under the Scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for development of Women Literacy in Tribal Areas

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for running 140 complexes. Apart from these, under the Scheme of 'Grants in aid to Voluntary Organisations, as many as four educational centres exclusively for women have been sanctioned to four organisations.

(c) Does not arise.

Jhuggies Surrounding Government Quarters in Sarojini Nagar and Laxmibai Nagar

*20. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of Jhuggi surrounding Government quarters in Sarojini Nagar XY block, Laxmibai Nagar, Barat Ghar and also over the nearby drain is constantly multiplying, as a result of which atmosphere of these colonies has got polluted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to go in for plantation thereafter removing these jhuggis and raising barbed wire fencing in a fixed timeframe; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor and steps Government propose to take for keeping this area clean and green?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. NDMC has reported that around 3,300 jhuggi dwellers are there in Arjun Das Camp near Sarojini Nagar XY Block. Out of these, 1138 are eligible for relocation as per Government policy. There were 287 juggies near Laxmibai Nagar Barat Ghar. Out of these, 52 jhuggies were removed on 10-11-1999. Of the remaining 235 jhuggies, 75 are eligible for rehabilitation.

(b) Jhuggie clusters develop due to a variety of reasons viz. large scale immigration, inadequate surveillance of public lands, etc.

(c) and (d) A Government are determined to clear up the area. The areas cleared of the jhuggies by the NDMC at Laxmibai Nagar have been protected and are being developed as parks, play-ground for Laxmibai Nagar Navyug School and other such public uses.