

Statement**Loans to Organisations under National Women Fund in Tamil Nadu**

Name of the District	No. of NGOs	1993-94 credit limit Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Women to be benefited
Madras	2	105.25	13,850
Dindigul	1	7.00	310
Madurai	1	7.98	1,330
			15,490
<i>1994-95</i>			
Madras	2	35.00	1,420
Tiruchirapalli	1	6.75	270
Dharmapuri	1	22.00	803
Cuddalore	1	5.00	600
			3,093

National Social Assistance Scheme

1329. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently approved the National Social Assistance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details; and

(c) the number of poor persons that are likely to be benefited by this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The components of the National Social Assistance Scheme (NSAS) which are to be implemented through the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Government of India are:—

(i) Old Age Pension

(ii) Family benefit

(iii) Maternity benefit

All these benefits shall be available to the people both in Rural and Urban Areas living below the poverty line. The Old Age Pension component is to provide financial assistance to destitute of the

age of 65 years or above. The amount of assistance is Rs. 75/- per month. The family benefits component is intended to give financial assistance in case of death of the primary bread winner in the age group of 20—60 of a family below the poverty line. Under this Scheme the amount of benefit is Rs. 5,000/- in case of natural death and Rs. 10,000/- in case of accidental death. Under the maternity benefit, a financial assistance of Rs. 300/- is to be given to a pregnant women of the age of 19 years or above upto two live births.

(c) The poor persons likely to be benefited under this Scheme are as the following:—

(i) Old Age Pension
5.3 million. — About

(ii) Family Benefit
3.5 lakh. — About

(iii) Maternity Benefit
4.5 million. — About

Condition of Widows in Eastern India

1330. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RE-

SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of widows mostly from eastern part of the country are at present employed as Bhajan singers in various ashrams of Vrindaban and other such places;

(b) whether it is also a fact that widows are paid a pittance and are living below poverty line; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to draw a plan to make their lives better and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Social Welfare Board has taken a number of steps for the rehabilitation of widows of Vrindaban. Financial assistance has been sanctioned for setting up of four Mahila Ashray Grihs. In addition to these, Vocational Training Courses for the widows and their female dependents, production units under Socio-Economic Programmes are being implemented for the benefit of these widows. A family Counselling Centre has been established there.

Government of India is implementing a Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for programmes relating to the Aged. Under this Scheme Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units, covering aged widows also, are set up by Voluntary Organisations. Government of India has also formulated a National Social Assistance Scheme for giving pension to persons aged 65 years and above including widows.

State Governments are also providing Old Age Pensions. Some State Governments are providing Destitute Widow Pension solatium, lump-sum financial assistance etc. to widows.

Welfare Schemes for Tribal Communities

1331A SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Questions 1920 and 6717 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March and 19th May, 1995 respectively and state:

(a) the various schemes launched in Orissa for the Welfare and upliftment of different tribal communities;

(b) the details of the benefits derived by the tribals in Orissa during the last three years, under those upliftment and welfare schemes; and

(c) the funds allotted for those schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The tribal welfare schemes taken up in Orissa by this Ministry are as follows:

Special Central Assistance; grants under first proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution; grants for construction of Girls and Boys Hostels for Tribal students; grants for construction of educational complex for tribal girls in low literacy pockets; grants for construction of Ashram Schools; grants for running vocational training centres; grants for State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for taking up minor forest produce operations; grants to voluntary organisations and grants to Tribal Research Institute. Of these, the scheme under which grants are given for construction of Girls and Boys Hostels and Ashram Schools are on a sharing basis in which 50% of the cost of construction is to be borne by the State Government. Grant to Tribal Research Institute is also on 50:50 sharing basis.

Besides the above mentioned schemes; the Ministry of Rural Development has been releasing funds under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Intensified—Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme to the State of Orissa for the upliftment of rural poor including