

provide a better enabling environment for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers and support for providing early & exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life on pilot basis in 52 districts initially.

Several of the schemes namely, ICDS, NRHM, Mid Day meal (MDM), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna have been expanded to provide for increased coverage and improved services to the people which would further improve the nutrition situation.

#### **Conditions of single women**

3696. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the difficult conditions of single women in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any scheme has been formulated or proposed to be formulated for protecting the interest of the single women like widows, working women and deserted women; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) To address their needs, Government implements several schemes/programmes for the welfare of women including working women, widows, deserted women, which can also be availed by single women, such as:

- (i) Swadhar and Short Stay Homes for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.
- (ii) Support for Training & Employment Programme (STEP) under which skill upgradation training is provided to assetless and below poverty line women.

- (iii) Scheme of Working Women Hostel under which assistance is provided for the construction/expansion of hostel building with the objective of providing safe accommodation to single working women who are unmarried, widowed, divorced or separated as well as to the married women whose husband or immediate family does not reside in the same area.
- (iv) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under which pension is provided to the widow in the age group of 40-64 years who is living below poverty line.
- (v) Integrated Programme for Older Persons under which financial assistance is given to voluntary organizations for running and maintenance of old age homes, mobile medical units etc. for the destitute senior citizens and for setting up of Multi Facility Care Centre for Older Widow Women to provide full time shelter, care, training in income generating activities, conduct of religious programmes, yoga etc. to older widows.

#### **Empowerment of women**

3697. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is working out a scheme aimed at improving the status of women to create more avenues and open up opportunities for their empowerment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the likely date of launch of such scheme especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) At present no such scheme is being worked out. However, the policies/programmes of the Government are already directed towards achieving inclusive growth with special focus on women in line with the objective of the National Policy for Empowerment of Women adopted in 2001.