

hostels for the welfare of the poor, needy, orphanage in the country, the details of such NGOs, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Disha Hostel is being run at Katra in Jammu & Kashmir, if so, whether any financial aid has been provided to it or not; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider to provide financial aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Women and Child has informed the Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (ICPS) under which financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for setting up of and maintenance of Children's Homes and Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 for children in need of care and protection, including orphans. However, the Ministry is not providing any financial assistance to the NGOs directly under ICPS. For receiving funds under ICPS, Voluntary organizations are required to submit their financial proposal to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for inclusion of the same in the consolidated financial proposal of the State Governments/UT Administration.

Social Security for Widows in Mathura

1821. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that thousands of widows have made Mathura their home while facing struggle, exploitation and neglect;

(b) whether they are not considered as citizen of the country for poll process; and

(c) will it not be proper on the part of Government to bring in a Bill like basic social and physical security so that widows can live respectfully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) and (b) The Constitution of India guarantees right to equality to all citizens of the country and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, caste, sex or place of birth. Accordingly, all citizens, including widows, are entitled to enjoy the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution.

(c) Different Ministries are implementing various schemes which, inter-alia, address the social security needs of widows.

The Ministry of Women & Child Development is administering two shelter based schemes i.e. Swadhar Scheme and Short Stay Home Scheme. Under these schemes; free shelter, food, pocket money, medical facility etc. are being providing to the women beneficiaries. So far, the Ministry of Women & Child Development has been providing

to the financial assistance for running the five shelter homes in Vrindavan and Mathura, U.P. for the welfare of widows.

The Ministry Social Justice and Empowerment is also implementing the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons under which financial assistance is given to voluntary organizations for running and maintenance of among others, 'Multi Facility Care Centre for Widows'.

The Ministry of Rural Development is administering the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme under which Central assistance @ Rs. 200/- per month is provided as pension to widow in the age group 40-59 years and belonging to BPL category, which is meant to be supplemented by equal contributed by States.

Human Resource Problem of ISRO

1822. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether ISRO is facing human resource as a major problem; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) ISRO/DOS had adequate quality human resources to realize the goals of 11th five year plan. ISRO has drawn up extensive and challenging goals to be realized during the 12th five year plan and beyond, including advanced launch vehicle missions, high resolution earth observation satellites, advanced high power communication satellites constellation of Indian Regional Navigation Satellites, Space Science and Planetary Exploration Satellites, for which an addition of 2500 persons in the category of Scientists, Engineers, Technicians and Administrative area is contemplated.

International Conspiracy in Antrix-Devas Deal

1823. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the opinion made by the former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) that he would not discount the possibility of an international conspiracy in raking up a controversy over the Antrix-Devas deal, targeting the nation's top scientists;
- (b) whether he has demanded the constitution of a committee to comprehensively review the entire issue; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) The two committee's (i) The High Power Review Committee