

Financial Help for Opening widow homes

†2141. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of widows in the country;
- (b) whether the responsibility of disbursing pension to these widows rests with the State Governments only and whether the Centre and the State Governments share the expenses;
- (c) whether Government would provide financial help for opening of widow homes for homeless widows in every district of each State in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of expenses likely to be made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) As per Census 2001, there are 342.9 lakh widows in the country.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development is administering the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under which Central assistance is given towards pension @ Rs. 300/- per month to widows below the poverty line in the age group of 40-79 years which is expected to be supplemented by at least an equal matching contribution by the States. Disbursement of pension is being done by the concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration. However, the Ministry of social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons under which financial assistance is also provided to the implementing agencies for running and maintenance of Multi Facility Care Centres for Older Widows.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing two Schemes namely, Swadhar and Short Stay Homes under which assistance is provided to the implementing agencies for running shelter homes. Under the Scheme of Swadhar, support services viz. shelter, food, clothing, counselling, training, clinical and legal aid are provided to rehabilitate women in difficult circumstances including widows. The Scheme of Short Stay Home is meant to provide temporary accommodation, maintenance and rehabilitative services to women including widows

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and girls rendered homeless due to family discord, crime, violence, mental stress, social ostracism or who are being forced into prostitution and are in moral danger. Widows can also avail the facilities being provided under the Scheme.

Special welfare and rehabilitation scheme for mentally retarded

2142. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is having any specific data about mentally retarded persons, if so, State-wise details thereof;

(b) as on date, whether Central Government in consultation with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and State Governments is going to launch a Special Welfare and Rehabilitation Scheme for such persons, who are spending their precious human life under open sky; and

(c) whether Central Government has started consultation process with State Governments to address this important social issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) As per Census, 2001 there are a total number of 22,63,821 persons with mental disability in the country. State-wise details of such persons is given in statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The primary responsibility for programmes for the welfare of persons with disabilities, including persons with physical and mental disabilities, lies with the State Government as per entry No. 9 in the "State List". However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Disability Affairs supplements the efforts of the States in the rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Under the Central Sector Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental organisations for providing various services to persons with mental retardation like special schools, vocational training centres, project for cerebral palsied children, pre-school and early intervention centres etc. Further, National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing