

assistance, legal counselling/court case management, psycho-social counselling and temporary shelter to women affected by violence including victims of rape. The Scheme is being implemented since 1st April 2015. The Scheme envisages establishment of One Stop Centre in each State/UT in the first phase.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also administering Swadhar and Short Stay Home Schemes for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances, including the victims of rape.

#### **Women in mental asylums**

2070. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has conducted survey to assess the plight of women in the mental asylums in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of women are forced into such asylums after the death of their husbands etc., by women relations to help usurp their property; and

(c) whether Government proposes to bring out some legislation or a way out to ensure that such women are not sent to such shelter illegally, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) No Sir.

(b) The Government does not have any specific information. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that during inspection of many Mental Health Hospitals/Institutes, it has been found that there are a number of mentally ill persons including women, who may not require admission but continue to stay in Mental Health Hospitals/Institutes.

(c) Admission and discharge process in Mental hospitals is guided by Mental Health Act, 1987.

#### **Welfare of widows living in Vrindavan**

2071. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Apex Court has given certain instructions to Uttar Pradesh Government to work for the welfare of Vrindavan widows to address their grievances in U.P.;

(b) if so, the details with progress that has so far been made in this direction; and

(c) the existing system that has been evolved to address their grievances/problems being faced by them?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) to (c) In the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) No.659 of 2007 (Environment and Consumer Protection Foundation *Vs.* Union of India and Others), Hon'ble Supreme Court appointed Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh as the Nodal Officer with the directions to visit Vrindavan at least on a couple of occasions and to meet concerned stake holders including the Government officials, the Member Secretary, DLSA and some widows to get first-hand knowledge and information about the living condition and other facilities available to the widows in Vrindavan. The Nodal Officer was further directed to formulate a plan of action to ameliorate their condition.

In pursuance to the above directions, the Nodal Officer visited the Shelter Homes/charitable institutions being run for the aged women and widows in Brij Dham on 13.03.15 and thereafter, and collected information from the District Administration and other stake holders about the living conditions of inmates/widows in those homes. Necessary instructions were issued to the District Administration to address the problems pointed by them. Further, the following arrangements have been made:

- (i) A team of Doctors under the direction/guidance of CMO to visit the Shelter Homes in Brij Dham thrice a week for carrying out medical checkup and for distribution of medicines.
- (ii) Municipal Corporation, Mathura has been given the responsibility to maintain cleanliness in the Shelter Homes. Arrangements for cleaning of rooms/toilets daily have been made.
- (iii) For repair of Shelter Homes, ₹ 3.65 crore have been sanctioned by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and construction/repair work is being carried out under the directions of D.M., Mathura.
- (iv) The pocket money/food money to the inmates of the Shelter Homes has been transferred in to their bank accounts upto June, 2015 through RTGS.
- (v) For providing drinking water submersible pump, new R.O. and new water tanks have been installed.

- (vi) T.V. and Dish antenna have been installed for entertainment.
- (vii) Arrangement are being made for performing final rites under the supervision of the District Administration, Mathura in case of death of any inmate of the Shelter Homes.
- (viii) Pension/widow pension to the inmates is being got credited into their respective bank accounts.
- (ix) Ration at fair prices is made available within the premises of the Shelter Home itself.
- (x) Round the clock security has been provided in all the Shelter Homes.

#### **Economic empowerment of poor women**

†2072. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have started a revised training and employment programme for economic empowerment of poor women of rural and urban areas of the country, if so, the details thereof, and
- (b) whether the scheme has yielded expected results, so far and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has revised Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) scheme Guidelines in December, 2014. The Ministry has been administering STEP Scheme since 1986-87 as a Central Sector Scheme. The STEP Scheme aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skill that enable women to become self-employed/ entrepreneurs. The scheme is intended to benefit women who are in the age group of 16 years and above across the country. The grant-in-aid under the Scheme is given to institutions/ organizations including NGOs. The assistance under STEP scheme will be available in any sector for imparting skills related to employability and entrepreneurship, including but not limited to the Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, Handlooms, Tailoring, Stitching, Embroidery, Zari etc., Handicrafts, Computer and IT enable services along with soft skills and skills for the work place such as spoken English,

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.