

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.2066
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2021

PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN DURING THE PANDEMIC

2066. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the plight and sufferings of physically challenged people, old age people, orphaned children and destitute women during the COVID-19 lockdown crisis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the appropriate action taken by Government to mitigate the problems and issues faced by them during the lockdown period;
- (c) whether Government has provided any financial assistance and other logistic support for these socially deprived people during the lockdown crisis; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d) : The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes targeting towards the welfare of women and children. Under the centrally sponsored scheme namely Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme, support is provided for rehabilitation of children in difficult circumstances including orphan and destitute children to the States/ UT Governments for services which include institutional care, non-institutional care, support for capacity building, human resources etc. The PM CARES for Children scheme also aims to support children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the other schemes namely Swadhar Greh scheme, Home for Widows, One Stop Centre, support is provided for shelter, food, and medical care, etc. for the women who are in difficult circumstances or without any social and economic support.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme namely "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" which includes sub-scheme - 'Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'. The scheme provides for necessities like food, shelter homes, medical facilities, counselling, rehabilitation, basic documentation, skill development, economic linkages including education to the children/ children of persons found to be engaged in begging.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued various advisories and guidelines to the States/ UT Governments to keep operational and available the institutions and facilities run under different schemes.
