

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2149
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.09.2020

WOMEN JAN DHAN ACCOUNT HOLDERS

2149. DR. T. SUMATHY AND SHRI THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN.

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the pension of many widows have been discontinued during the lockdown, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) if not, the details thereof including the number of women currently receiving pension;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that 500 rupees paid to women account holders and an advance pension of three months/grant of 1000 rupees for widows under Jan Dhan does not even cover basic sanitation costs of the said beneficiaries; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government is formulating steps to ensure their safety and wellbeing and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No decision has been taken to discontinue the widow pension during the lockdown.
- (b) Widow pension is provided under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), a component of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) of the Ministry of Rural Development to the widows belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households only. Under IGNWPS, monthly central assistance of Rs. 300 is provided to the widows of age 40-79 years and Rs. 500 is provided to the widows of age of 80 years or higher. During the year 2019-20, 59 lakh widows were covered under IGNWPS.
- (c) & (d) During COVID-19 induced lockdown, financial assistance has been provided as ex-gratia @ Rs. 1000/- in two monthly installments (Rs 500 each) to the existing old age, widow and Divyangjan beneficiaries of NSAP under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY). An amount of Rs.2814.50 Cr has been released to the States/UTs for payment of ex-gratia.
