

PRESS RELEASE

6th August, 2012

The National Commission for Women has been concerned deeply about the conditions of widows in Vrindavan and has been actively participating in the Committee set up by the Supreme Court in addition to undertaking independent visits.

- The Commission had engaged the services of social scientists and consulted other senior persons and prepared a qualitative report based on field study over a period of three months which was one of the first reports produced in this regard.
- Following the findings in this report, the Commission had as early as in June 2011 written to the Director General and Mission Director, UID to undertake awarding UID No. And cards to the widows in Vrindavan which would enable them to get the proof of residence which would in turn allow them to access other government facilities.
- The Commission had been assured that the same would be done and some enrolments had been done. In addition to that The Commission has also written to the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India to indicate if they would be willing to conduct a survey which would capture information pertaining to all aspects of widows/destitute women in Vrindavan to which the Commission was informed that an NGO may be engaged for the same.
- In a meeting held in the Commission Presided by the Chairperson, Mrs. Mamta Sharma, it was decided that the Commission would also explore engaging with agencies who would as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility engage with the Commission in addressing the rehabilitation issues in a holistic manner of destitute women in Vrindavan.
- The Commission has taken a decision to appoint its Member, Advocate Nirmala Samant Prabhavalkar as the point person to deal with the issues of the women in distress in Vrindavan.
- In addition to the qualitative report on the conditions of widows in Vrindavan, the Commission will document the other work it has done and will be filing an affidavit in the Supreme Court