

So far as women beggars are concerned, they are rounded up by the police under the provisions of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 and produced before a Magistrate. Thereafter, they are remanded to beggars homes for a period of 1 to 3 years as per the Court's orders. They are given training or kept gainfully occupied in activities such as broom making, nursery, plantation etc. in the beggars homes. There are 2 number of Women's beggars homes in the State with a capacity of 500.

The full cost of meals and shelter *i.e.* including food grains, vegetables, pulses, clothing etc. in these beggars homes are borne by the Government. However, the budget/expenditure on these children homes and beggars homes for the last five years is not readily available.

3. The **Government of Tamil Nadu** has informed that persons convicted by the Judicial Magistrates are kept in the Government Care Camp at Melpakkam and provided with free boarding, lodging, clothing, medical facilities. They are also given training in various trades like weaving, carpentry, pottery and tailoring.

Two towels, two sets of shirts and shorts to the male inmates and two sets of sarees and blouses to the female inmates are supplied once in a year. Apart from this, free dhotis and sarees are supplied on the Pongal Day. Inmates are provided with mats, bedsheets, plates and coconut oil, etc. On completion of the conviction period, they are sent back to their native place.

The expenditure details for the last five years are given below:

Year	Physical		Financial	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
	(No. of Beneficiaries)		(Rs. in lakh)	
2007-08	950	112	82.17	45.26
2008-09	950	161	63.43	54.68
2009-10	950	139	72.37	70.10
2010-11	950	78	81.00	71.53
2011-12	950	78	84.02	69.14

Percentage of population of SCs, STs, and OBCs in Odisha

4603. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Odisha State, the percentage of population of STs is 24 per cent, SCs 14 per cent and OBCs 52 per cent of the total population;

(b) if so, in order to meet the ends of justice to OBC community under 9th Schedule of the Constitution, the reservation in Government vacancies need to be increased to 69 per cent as has been done in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka States in terms of provisions of the Constitution; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to fall in line with the above provisions of the Constitution to help the OBCs of Odisha region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) As per 2001 census report, the percentage of population of STs and SCs in the State of Odisha is 23.13% and 16.53% respectively. The percentage of population of OBC category in the State is not available separately.

(b) and (c) At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

School for blind children

4604. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is running any schools for the blind children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such schools functioning in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether such schools are being funded by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (d) As per entry No. 9 in the 'State List' of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution "Relief of the Disabled and Unemployable" is a State Subject. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in this regard.

Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance is provided to non-governmental organizations for running various projects including Special Schools for the children with visual impairment. State-wise details of such schools assisted under DDRS during the year 2011-12 are given in Statement.