

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-445  
ANSWERED ON - 01/12/2021

**STATUS OF CHILD AND ADULT BEGGARS IN INDIA**

445. SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) the State/UT-wise details of adult and child beggars for the last 10 years;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the number of beggars has increased since the 2011 Census;
- (c) whether it is a fact that begging is a crime in India, as per State laws;
- (d) the details of schemes for uplifting the beggar population in India and reducing the organised crime of beggary in the country, along with any impact evaluation of the same carried out, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of scheme-wise beneficiaries and their eligibility criteria?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI A. NARAYANASWAMY)

(a) & (b) As per the information available on the website of Registrar General of India, numbers of adult and children (Age up to 19 years) engaged in the act of Begging are attached at **Annexure**. These figures are based on Census 2011.

(c) Most of the States/UTs have adopted "The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act 1959" which criminalize the act of Begging. The High Court of Delhi, had struck down various Sections of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 as extended to Delhi which criminalize the begging or treating begging as offence, stating them as unconstitutional.

(d) & (e) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise", which includes sub-scheme - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'. This scheme covers several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging.

The focus of the scheme is extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages and so on. Persons engaged in the act of Begging are to be covered under the scheme.

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**Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 445 to be answered on 01/12/2021 regarding 'Status of child and adult beggars in India'**

ST Code	India/State/UT	Beggars, Vagrants etc.			
		Total	Child (0-19 Years)	Adult(19+ Years)	Age not Stated
1	JAMMU & KASHMIR	4,134	1,204	2,926	4
2	HIMACHAL PRADESH	809	237	569	3
3	PUNJAB	7,939	1,681	6,247	11
4	CHANDIGARH	121	21	100	0
5	UTTARAKHAND	3,320	377	2,937	6
6	HARYANA	8,682	1,767	6,862	53
7	NCT OF DELHI	2,187	380	1,804	3
8	RAJASTHAN	25,853	8,976	16,763	114
9	UTTAR PRADESH	65,835	14,599	50,681	555
10	BIHAR	29,723	4,485	25,082	156
11	SIKKIM	68	8	58	2
12	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	114	29	85	0
13	NAGALAND	124	26	98	0
14	MANIPUR	263	40	223	0
15	MIZORAM	53	6	47	0
16	TRIPURA	1,490	67	1,421	2
17	MEGHALAYA	396	50	345	1
18	ASSAM	22,116	999	21,086	31
19	WEST BENGAL	81,244	4,323	76,778	143
20	JHARKHAND	10,819	1,604	9,164	51
21	ODISHA	17,965	1,194	16,713	58
22	CHHATTISGARH	10,198	1,414	8,772	12
23	MADHYA PRADESH	28,695	3,654	25,009	32
24	GUJARAT	13,445	2,675	10,711	59
25	DAMAN & DIU	22	8	14	0
26	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	19	1	18	0
27	MAHARASHTRA	24,307	4,058	20,000	249
28	ANDHRA PRADESH	30,218	4,201	25,632	385
29	KARNATAKA	12,270	2,144	10,111	15
30	GOA	247	36	208	3
31	LAKSHADWEEP	2	1	1	0
32	KERALA	4,023	248	3,717	58
33	TAMIL NADU	6,814	782	5,993	39
34	PUDUCHERRY	99	12	87	0
35	A & N ISLANDS	56	4	52	0
	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>4,13,670</b>	<b>61,311</b>	<b>3,50,314</b>	<b>2,045</b>