

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -3972
ANSWERED ON - 06/04/2022

WELFARE OF CHILD BEGGARS

3972. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB

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

- (a) whether Government has any data of minors/children who indulged in begging in the country;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;
- (c) the number of children who were rescued and rehabilitated in shelter homes or care centres in the last five years;
- (d) if not, the reason for not keeping such databases; and
- (e) whether Government proposes to legislate any new laws or schemes for their rescue, rehabilitation and education?

ANSWER

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, 61,311 children (Age up to 19 years) were engaged in the act of Begging as per details attached at **Annexure**. These figures are based on Census 2011.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a scheme "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" on 12.02.2022, which includes sub-scheme - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons 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.

As per information provided by Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Adoption Regulations 2017 establish a framework for the rehabilitation of orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children, which include cases, where children have lost both the parents owing to Covid-19. The Child Welfare Committee and the District Child Protection Unit are entrusted with the placement of such

children for adoption and rehabilitation. Besides, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) and State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) are also mandated under JJ Act, 2015 for facilitating adoption related matters of children.

Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme under which support is provided to States and UT Governments for delivering services for children in need of care and in difficult circumstances including children who indulged in begging for their rehabilitation. The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the CPS scheme support inter-alia age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc.

- 2 -

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3972 to be answered on 06.04.2022 regarding "Welfare of child beggars"

ST Code	India/State/UT	Beggars, Vagrants etc.	
		Total	Child (0-19 Years)
1	JAMMU & KASHMIR	4,134	1,204
2	HIMACHAL PRADESH	809	237
3	PUNJAB	7,939	1,681
4	CHANDIGARH	121	21
5	UTTARAKHAND	3,320	377
6	HARYANA	8,682	1,767
7	NCT OF DELHI	2,187	380
8	RAJASTHAN	25,853	8,976
9	UTTAR PRADESH	65,835	14,599
10	BIHAR	29,723	4,485
11	SIKKIM	68	8
12	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	114	29
13	NAGALAND	124	26
14	MANIPUR	263	40
15	MIZORAM	53	6
16	TRIPURA	1,490	67
17	MEGHALAYA	396	50
18	ASSAM	22,116	999
19	WEST BENGAL	81,244	4,323
20	JHARKHAND	10,819	1,604
21	ODISHA	17,965	1,194
22	CHHATTISGARH	10,198	1,414
23	MADHYA PRADESH	28,695	3,654
24	GUJARAT	13,445	2,675
25	DAMAN & DIU	22	8
26	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	19	1
27	MAHARASHTRA	24,307	4,058
28	ANDHRA PRADESH	30,218	4,201
29	KARNATAKA	12,270	2,144
30	GOA	247	36
31	LAKSHADWEEP	2	1
32	KERALA	4,023	248
33	TAMIL NADU	6,814	782
34	PUDUCHERRY	99	12
35	A & N ISLANDS	56	4
	INDIA	4,13,670	61,311
