

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -929
ANSWERED ON - 09/02/2022

REHABILITATION/VOCATIONAL SKILL SCHEMES FOR BEGGARS

929. SHRI N.R. ELANGO

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that poor people resort to alms-seeking in streets not out of choice but due to compulsion and there are few facilities to help uplift them from extreme depravity and ultimately eradicate the menace;
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken/being taken by Government to rehabilitate them and find a long-term solution to the grave socio-economic issue; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to set up homes to improve the lot of this huge and vulnerable segment and equip them with vocational skills, and if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI A. NARAYANASWAMY)

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated an umbrella scheme "**SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**", which includes the sub-scheme – 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'. This umbrella scheme cover of several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging with focus extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, education, skill development, economic linkages etc. with the support of State Governments/UTs/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and institutions and others.

Scheme provides for the use of the existing shelter homes for rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging. In case of non-availability of existing shelter homes, new dedicated shelter homes to be set up for the Persons engaged in the act of begging by the implementing agencies.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has initiated pilot projects on Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the act of Begging in major seven cities of the Country including Delhi, Patna, Nagpur, Indore, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Lucknow. Objective of this project is awareness generation, identification, rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling skill development, sustainable settlement and education to person engaged in Begging.
