

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA  
ON THE 25TH FEBRUARY, 2011

**Bill No. LXXXI of 2010**

THE PREVENTION OF BEGGING BILL, 2010

A

BILL

*to provide for prevention of begging and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Prevention of Begging Act, 2010.

Short title,  
extent and  
commence-  
ment.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

5 2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Definitions.

(a) "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in all other cases, the Central Government;

(b) "begger" means a person who indulges in begging;

(c) "begging" means:—

(i) soliciting alms in a public place, including railways, bus-stops, road sides and public transport, by invoking compassion; and

(ii) entering in any private premises for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms; 5

(d) "fund" means Beggars' Welfare Fund established under section 6.

(e) "rehabilitation centre" means a centre established under this Act where any person taken into custody on the ground of begging shall be kept till the time he is rehabilitated. 10

Abolition of begging.

**3.** Begging by any person in any manner is hereby abolished.

Punishment for forced begging.

**4.** Whoever forces or encourages any person, including a child in his care, custody or charge, for begging or whoever uses any person as an exhibit for the purpose of begging, shall, in the first instance, be warned of indulging in such activities and if he indulges in spite of the warning be punished with a fine of rupees five thousand. 15

Arrest of persons found begging, etc.

**5. (1)** Any person found begging shall be arrested by the Police.

**(2) Any persons so arrested shall be sent to a rehabilitation centre, to be established in every district by the appropriate Government, wherein such person shall be provided with facilities for his rehabilitation in such manner as may be prescribed.**

Beggars' Welfare Fund.

**6. (1) The Central Government shall constitute a Fund to be called the Beggars' Welfare Fund for the welfare of the beggars.** 20

**(2) The fund shall be utilised by the Central Government as and when required for the welfare and rehabilitation of beggars.**

Formulation of schemes and plans for beggars, etc.

**7. (1) The appropriate Government shall formulate such schemes, work out such plans, including plans for provision of education, and create suitable infrastructure in every district so as to enable beggars to take up suitable jobs for earning their livelihood.** 25

**(2) The appropriate Government shall set up destitute homes for providing food, shelter and protection, to the old, infirm, helpless and destitute persons so as to discourage them from indulging in begging.**

Power to make rules.

**8.** The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. 30

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Despite all efforts made and welfare measures taken by the Central Government and the State Governments, the practice of begging continues unabated all over the country, especially in the metropolitan cities and urban areas. There are organised gangs who exploit innocent children and force them into begging not for the sustenance of these boys and girls but for gathering alms for the gang leaders and organizers. Some people kidnap children and force them to go for begging and collect huge amount of money.

The number of beggars in the country has increased manifold. As per an estimate the number is somewhere around fifty lakhs.

While, the old and infirm beggars can be sent to destitute homes, the other beggars should be given education and training so that they can get gainful employment.

Therefore, it is high time that a law for prevention of begging be enacted.

Hence this Bill.

NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 5 of the Bill provides for establishment of "rehabilitation centres" in every district by the appropriate Government. Clause 6 provides for setting up of Beggars' Welfare Fund. Clause 7 provides for formulation of schemes and creating suitable infrastructure by appropriate Government in every district so as to enable beggars to take up suitable jobs. It further provides for setting up of destitute homes by the appropriate Government. The Central Government would have to incur expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India for establishment of rehabilitation centres, destitute homes, formulating schemes, creating suitable infrastructure in respect of Union territories and shall also have to contribute monies into Beggars' Welfare Fund. As for as establishment of rehabilitation centres, destitute homes, formulation of schemes and creating suitable infrastructure in the States are concerned, the concerned State Governments will incur expenditure from their Consolidated Funds, through the Central Government may have to extend some financial assistance to the States for implementing the provisions of the Bill. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is likely to involve a recurring expenditure of about rupees five hundred crore per annum.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore is also likely to be involved.

#### MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 8 empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Bill. Since the rules will relate to matters of details only, the delegation of legislative power is of normal character.

RAJYA SABHA

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*(Shri Narendra Kumar Kashyap, M.P.)*