

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1412
ANSWERED ON – 11/02/2026

SUPPORT FOR MARGINALIZED INDIVIDUALS FOR LIVELIHOOD AND ENTERPRISE (SMILE) SCHEME

1412 SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI
SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH
SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY
SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR
SHRI MADAN RATHORE
SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA

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

- (a) the current progress of the 'Bhiksha Vritti Mukht Bharat' (Begging-Free India) initiative;
- (b) how many of the newly approved Garima Greh shelter homes for transgender persons were operational as of December, 2025, and;
- (c) the roadmap to set up at least one Garima Greh in every State capital in the next five years;
- (d) the status of geo-tagging for all SMILE-funded rehabilitation centres for public monitoring; and
- (e) the number of individuals rescued from begging and those from the transgender community who were successfully certified under the PM-DAKSH skilling program in 2024– 25?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) The SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprises) sub-scheme 'Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging' aims to achieve a Bhiksha Vritti Mukht Bharat (a begging-free India) by ensuring the comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging.

Currently, the SMILE Beggary sub-scheme is operational in selected 181 cities across the country. As on 31st January 2026, a total of 30,257 individuals have been identified as engaged in the act of begging and 8,129 individuals have been rehabilitated in different cities of India.

(b) Currently, 23 Garima Grehs are being supported by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in 17 States/UTs, out of which 6 Garima Grehs are newly approved and opened during 2025-26.

(c) No such roadmap is proposed.

(d) All the SMILE-funded Garima Grehs have been geotagged. However, under the SMILE Beggary sub-scheme, details of rehabilitation centres / shelter homes are collected, registered and monitored through a SMILE-Beggary national portal (<https://smile-b.dosje.gov.in>).

(e) No beneficiaries from begging or transgender community have so far been certified under PM-DAKSH during 2024-25.
