

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1414**  
ANSWERED ON – 11/02/2026

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SMILE SCHEME**

1414. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite allocating ₹100 crore and targeting rehabilitation of 8,000 persons between Financial Year 2023-26 under the SMILE scheme, only 9,958 individuals have been identified and a mere 970 rehabilitated as of December, 2024;
- (b) if so, the reasons for this significant under-achievement; and
- (c) whether a comprehensive review is being undertaken to improve outreach, implementation and fund utilisation under the scheme?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) & (b) Conceptualisation of the scheme and framing of a convergence-based implementation model required initial ground work involving consultation with the district administrations of the State/UT Governments *i.e.* conducting survey / identification and mobilization and development of monitoring portal which took time in finalisation. Accordingly, revised guidelines were approved on 23.10.2023 and the actual implementation of the scheme commenced from January, 2024.

Further, cities are selected for implementation under the scheme in a phased manner. As per scheme guidelines, the coverage is extended to cities/towns of historical, religious and tourist importance and selection is also based on proposals and recommendations received from the concerned State/UT Government. Accordingly, the scheme is being implemented in a phased manner.

Currently, the SMILE Beggary scheme is operational in the 181 cities/ towns across the country. As on date, a total of 30,257 individuals have been identified as engaged in the act of begging out of which 8,129 individuals have been rehabilitated in different cities of India.

(c) Yes, a third-party evaluation of the scheme has been done by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR). Based on the inputs of third-party evaluation report, necessary changes have been made in the draft Standing Finance Committee memorandum for continuation in the next Finance Commission Cycle and circulated to different Ministries/Departments seeking comments.