

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2948
ANSWERED ON – 18/03/2026

ACTION ON NHRC RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BEGGARY REHABILITATION

2948. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE

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

(a) whether the Ministry has taken note of the recommendations issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in August, 2024 on preventing beggary and rehabilitating individuals engaged in it;

(b) if so, the details of actions taken towards mapping high-density begging areas, Aadhaar enrolment drives, database creation and access to welfare schemes including housing, food and livelihood under the SMILE scheme; and

(c) whether coordination mechanisms have been established with State Governments or civil society organisations to implement these measures?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) Yes. The Ministry has taken note of the recommendations issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in June, 2024 on the advisory for the Protection and Rehabilitation of Impoverished, Uneducated Children, Women, and Differently-abled Individuals engaged in begging.

(b) The recommendations of the NHRC are in line with different provisions of the guidelines of SMILE-Beggary Scheme. As per the scheme guidelines, the District Authorities / Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) identify and map the high-density begging areas, especially targeting pilgrimage and religious places, historical and tourist places, major cities and towns and other public places. After rescuing the individuals found engaged in the act of begging, shelter homes facilitate registration and documentation (issuance of Aadhaar Card and Government Identity cards) along with opening of bank accounts. During rehabilitation, beneficiaries are provided stay in shelter-home, health care, counselling, education, skill development / vocational training and linkage with existing Central / State Government welfare schemes.

(c) The SMILE-Beggary scheme is being implemented as per the guidelines in partnership and coordination with State Governments / District Authorities / Urban Local Bodies and Voluntary Organisations (NGOs).
