

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2771
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2018**

BEGGING CHILDREN

2771. SHRI D.S. RATHOD:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan/scheme to start educational programmes for the street begging children in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)**

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Human Resource Development have informed that the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, effective from 1st April, 2010, mandates that every child of the age of six to fourteen years shall have the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till the completion of his or her elementary education. Section 4 of the RTE Act provides for special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children. Those children who have missed out certain academic years either for having never enrolled to school or having dropped out of school, have a right to special training in residential and non residential mode, before getting mainstreamed in formal schools in the age appropriate class. These out of school children include those who are never enrolled, those who drop out, children of migrants, street and working children, children without adult protection etc.

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), village elders, Panchayati Raj Institutions' members, Self Help Groups and Non-Governmental Organisations are involved to create awareness and motivation amongst these children and their families. Strategies such as providing residential schools and hostels, transport and escort facility, seasonal hostels, special training centres at work site, migration cards, back to school camps etc. have been undertaken to assimilate these children into the formal education system.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has informed that they are implementing Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) with the objective of creating a safe and secure environment for children in need of care and protection including those children who are found begging. Under ICPS, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for, inter-alia, undertaking a situational analysis of children in difficult circumstances, for setting up and maintenance of various types of Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The Scheme provides institutional care through CCIs. As a rehabilitative measure in these CCIs, children are provided age appropriate education either within the institution or outside in a formal education system through convergence with other schemes and programs of the Government or Civil Society.
