

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1505
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2023

CHILD BEGGARS

1505. MS. DIYA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any data regarding the number of child beggars in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially for the State of Rajasthan;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce policies for rehabilitation of children forced into begging;
- (d) the substantive measures undertaken for deterrence and prevention of child begging; and
- (e) whether the Government has carried out any assessment regarding the number of children involved in begging under Integrated Child Protection Scheme and if so, the findings thereof

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c) : The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) which is the primary legislation for ensuring safety, security, dignity and well-being of children. The Act provides for protection of children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with law by catering to their basic needs through care, protection, development, treatment and social re-integration. It defines standards of care and protection to secure the best interest of child.

Section 2 (14) (ii) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provides that a child who is found working in contravention of labour laws for the time being in force or is found begging, or living on the street is included as a "Child in Need of Care and Protection". The JJ Act, 2015 also provides for punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and fine with one lakh rupees in the case of employment of child for begging.

The Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely "Mission Vatsalya" (erstwhile Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme) under which support and financial assistance on predefined cost sharing pattern is provided to State and UT Governments for delivering services for children in difficult circumstances. The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the Mission Vatsalya scheme support *inter-alia* age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. As per the scheme guidelines, quantum of

sponsorship of Rs. 4000/- per child per month is available for Non-institutional Care of children in Need of Care and Protection and the provision for maintenance grant of Rs. 3000/- per child per month for children living in Child Care Institution. State-wise details of beneficiaries supported under Mission Vatsalya Scheme including Rajasthan, as on 31.03.2022, is at Annexure-I.

(d) & (e) : Under the JJ Act, 2015 (Sections 27-30), the Child Welfare Committees (CWC) have been empowered to take decisions with regard to the children in need of care and protection, keeping their best interest in mind. They are also mandated to monitor the function of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs). At the national and state level, the JJ Act authorizes the National/State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights to monitor the implementation of the Act (Section 109). Further, as per section 106 of JJ Act, 2015, the primary responsibility and execution of the JJ Act, 2015 lies with the States/UTs.

As informed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), an online portal Baal Swaraj has been devised to do real time monitoring of children living in street situations - Baal Swaraj Portal-CISS. All the States/UTs have been directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SMWP(C) No.6 of 2021 In Re. Children in Street Situations to upload the data of children who have been identified to be in street situations. The State/UT-wise details of Children in Street Situations uploaded on Baal Swaraj-Portal-CISS, as on 24.03.2022, is given at Annexure-II. These children are produced before CWCs for taking decision regarding declaring them as children in need of care and protection and further support to them.

Further, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, has formulated a scheme "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise", which includes sub-scheme titled 'Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'. The scheme provides for necessities like food, shelter homes, medical facilities, counselling, rehabilitation, basic documentation, skill development, economic linkages including education to the children/ children of persons found to be engaged in begging.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) TO THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.1505 FOR 10.02.2023 RAISED BY MS. DIYA KUMARI REGARDING CHILD BEGGARS

STATE-WISE DETAILS OF BENEFICIARIES SUPPORTED UNDER MISSION VATSALYA SCHEME INCLUDING RAJASTHAN (AS ON 31.03.2022)

Sl. No.	State	Total Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	3069
2	Arunachal Pradesh	147
3	Assam	1378
4	Bihar	2372
5	Chhattisgarh	2167
6	Goa	685
7	Gujarat	1299
8	Haryana	1786
9	Himachal Pradesh	1147
10	Jammu and Kashmir	579
11	Jharkhand	1537
12	Karnataka	3974
13	Kerala	1380
14	Madhya Pradesh	2982
15	Maharashtra	3468
16	Manipur	1980
17	Meghalaya	915
18	Mizoram	776
19	Nagaland	597
20	Orissa	7077
21	Punjab	685
22	Rajasthan	3670
23	Sikkim	534
24	Tamil Nadu	13877
25	Tripura	875
26	Uttar Pradesh	4722
27	Uttarakhand	457
28	West Bengal	6494
29	Telangana	2822
30	Andaman & Nicobar	301
31	Chandigarh	153
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	5
33	Ladakh	0
34	Lakshadweep	0
35	Delhi	1835
36	Puducherry	373
	Total	76118

ANNEXURE - II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) AND (E) TO THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.1505 FOR 10.02.2023 RAISED BY MS. DIYA KUMARI REGARDING CHILD BEGGARS

THE STATE/UT-WISE DETAILS OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS UPLOADED ON BAAL SWARAJ-PORTAL- CISS (AS ON 24.03.2022)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Children living on the streets with their families	Children stay on the streets in the day and are back home in the night with their families who reside in a nearby slum/ hutments	Children without support living on the streets all alone	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	530	240	17	787
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	107	183	32	322
5	Bihar	145	90	13	248
6	Chandigarh	40	8	5	53
7	Chhattisgarh	54	129	22	205
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	11	0	0	11
9	Delhi	589	1203	61	1853
10	Goa	25	28	0	53
11	Gujarat	1086	895	9	1990
12	Haryana	392	362	23	777
13	Himachal Pradesh	15	93	0	108
14	Jammu and Kashmir	33	212	1	246
15	Jharkhand	25	32	12	69
16	Karnataka	466	649	105	1220
17	Kerala	33	8	2	43
18	Ladakh	3	30	0	33
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	638	808	45	1491
21	Maharashtra	3848	1266	39	5153
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	5	0	5
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	1	0	1
26	Odisha	172	11	43	226
27	Puducherry	9	18	0	27
28	Punjab	41	167	18	226
29	Rajasthan	387	175	12	574
30	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	1073	522	124	1719
32	Telangana	115	690	6	811
33	Tripura	0	2	14	16
34	Uttar Pradesh	510	258	270	1038
35	Uttarakhand	45	22	1	68
36	West Bengal	9	156	8	173
	Total	10401	8263	882	19546
