

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1152
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2021**

WELFARE OF BEGGARS

†1152. SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any action plan to make the country beggar free;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the targets fixed in this regard;
- (c) the action taken against the culprits forcing children into begging at railway stations and other public places; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for educating and providing employment to beggars?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)**

(a) & (b): Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment has identified ten cities namely Ahmadabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur and Patna for undertaking a pilot project on Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the act of Begging, which will provide the whole range of services including awareness generation, identification, rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, education, skill development and sustainable settlement of persons engaged in begging.

(c): As per information provided by Ministry of Home Affairs, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens rest with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. However, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had written to the Railway Board to sensitize their Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel to keep vigil on Railway stations to watch out for hapless victims, who could be in the process of being trafficked through Railways. Further, MHA has also requested all States/UTs to sensitize police personnel posted on Bus Depots/Bus Terminals etc to keep a close watch on suspicious activities at such places. MHA has also requested all States/UTs to establish mechanisms for effective inter-state coordination between the law enforcement officers concerned for apprehending and rescuing the victims of trafficking and investigation and prosecution of the offenders.

(d): Department of School Education & Literacy in partnership with the States and UT Governments have taken a range of initiatives to ensure that all children including children into begging are enrolled in schools and complete their elementary education. The Department of School & Literacy has launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education – Samagra Shiksha with effect from 2018-19, which subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and Teacher Education. The scheme envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to reduce number of out of school children including children into begging, among others for opening / strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalayas, setting up of residential schools/hostels, free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and undertaking enrollment & retention drives. Further, special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Also, mid-day meal is provided to students at the elementary level of education. Further, under the student oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

Further, Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 1.50 crore to National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) for skill development programmes for beggars, through which 560 persons engaged in Begging have been provided skill development trainings.
