

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1489
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2021**

CHILD BEGGING

1489. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:

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

- (a) whether cases of involvement of children in begging in all the States/UTs of the country have been increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of children below 15 years engaged in begging activities;
- (c) whether the Government is likely to formulate any effective policy to bring such children into the main stream of the society;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by the Government for rehabilitation of the children involved in begging;
- (e) whether the Government has any data of the number of children involved in begging and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (f) if not, whether the Government is likely to conduct any assessment regarding the number of children involved in begging under Integrated Child Protection Scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a) & (b): No sir. As per census data, there has been a decrease in the number of children engaged in begging activity from 1,12,794 in 2001 to 45,296 in 2011.
- (c) & (d): Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise", which includes a sub-scheme - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'. This scheme covers several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging. The focus of the scheme is extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, basic documentation,

education, skill development, economic linkages and so on. Persons engaged in the act of Begging are to be covered under the scheme.

As per information provided by Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme. The scheme provides financial assistance to the States/UTs on sharing pattern 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). Under the scheme institutional care is provided 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. Under the non-institutional care component, support is extended for adoption, foster care and sponsorship.

Further, 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".

(e) & (f): As per the information available on the website of Registrar General of India, State-wise details of number of children (Age up to 14 years) engaged in the act of Begging are attached at **Annexure**. These figures are based on Census 2011.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1489 to be answered on 07.12.2021 regarding 'Child Begging'

Name of the State/UT	Total (0-14 years)
JAMMU & KASHMIR	990
Himachal Pradesh	178
Punjab	1,214
Chandigarh	11
Uttarakhand	274
Haryana	1,171
NCT of Delhi	290
Rajasthan	7,167
Uttar Pradesh	10,167
Bihar	3,396
Sikkim	1
Arunachal Pradesh	24
Nagaland	20
Manipur	34
Mizoram	6
Tripura	43
Meghalaya	38
Assam	686
West Bengal	3,216
Jharkhand	1,254
Odisha	905
Chhattisgarh	1,065
Madhya Pradesh	2,592
Gujarat	1,982
Daman and Diu	8
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
Maharashtra	3,026
Andhra Pradesh	3,128
Karnataka	1,602
Goa	24
Lakshadweep	1
Kerala	202
Tamil Nadu	572
Poducherry	9
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
India	45,296
