

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2549
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2021**

ISSUE OF BEGGING

2549. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

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

- (a) the status of the Persons in Destitution (Protection, Care and Rehabilitation) Model Bill of 2016;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that begging is a crime in several States, if so, the detail thereof of the States where begging has been criminalised, along with the maximum punishment;
- (c) the number of persons arrested under anti begging laws in the country from 2018 to 2021; and
- (d) whether the Government recognises that begging should not be a crime and proposes to bring in a model legislation for States to decriminalise begging and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a): "The Persons in Destitution (Protection, Care and Rehabilitation) Model Bill of 2016" was considered and dropped by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- (b): As per information available, as many as 19 States and 3 UTs have either enacted their own Anti Beggary Legislation or adopted the legislation enacted by other States. However, the provisions of these legislations vary from one another and their implementation, including the measures taken for rehabilitation of beggars, are also not uniform. Most of the States/UTs have adopted "The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act 1959" which criminalizes beggary.
- (c): Ministry does not maintain such data.
- (d): No Sir, at this point, there is no proposal to bring model legislation for States to decriminalise begging.
