

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*76
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2025

CHILD BEGGARS

*76. SHRI RAJEEV RAI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on the number of children begging at road crossings and traffic lights in big cities and Tier II towns;
- (b) if so, the number and average age group of these children;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any rehabilitation plan for these children;
and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred during the last five years to ameliorate their condition?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTs (A) TO (D) OF THE LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.76 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 RAISED BY SHRI
RAJEEV RAI REGARDING CHILD BEGGARS**

(a) to (d) : The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment which has been allocated the subject "Beggary" has informed that no survey has been conducted on the number of children begging at road crossings and traffic lights in big cities and Tier II towns.

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment implements a Central Sector Scheme "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise", which includes sub-scheme for the 'Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging' including children engaged in the act of begging. The scheme provides for food, shelter homes, medical facilities, counselling, rehabilitation, basic documentation, skill development to the children/ children of persons found to be engaged in begging.

Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya', through the State/ UT Governments on pre-defined cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments to deliver various services for children in difficult circumstances, which include both institutional care and non-institutional care services for the Children in Need of Care and Protection and Children in Conflict with Law. The scheme provides services to children including child beggars for their rehabilitation and social re-integration into the mainstream of the society. 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. Support under non-institutional care is provided by way of sponsorship, foster care, adoption and after care to children in need of care and protection. An expenditure of Rs.4317.14 crore has been incurred under Mission Vatsalya Scheme during the last five years (2019-20 to 2023-24).

Department of Social Justice & Empowerment has further informed that 23 States and UTs have enacted various Acts on prevention of Beggary. Also, 15 States have their own administrative schemes to tackle the challenge of beggary.
