

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1386
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2026**

WELFARE AND REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN ENGAGED IN BEGGING

1386. DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any data on the number of children engaged in begging in cities and major towns across the country, if so, the details thereof, State and age group-wise;
- (b) the details of such children, indicating the number identified during surveys, rescue operations, or any other official exercise, age and gender-wise;
- (c) the details of children engaged in begging who have been rescued, rehabilitated, reunited with their families, or provided institutional care along with the details of rehabilitation measures extent to them during the last five years, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is implementing any welfare schemes specifically for children engaged in begging, if so, the details thereof, including the number of beneficiaries covered and if not, the reason therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to formulate a dedicated scheme for their rescue, rehabilitation, education, and reintegration into society, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI B.L.VERMA)**

(a) to (c): Yes, The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the Central Sector Scheme, Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) - Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the act of Begging, since 23.10.2023 in 216 major cities and towns across 33 States/Union Territories, Under the Scheme, data relating to persons, including children, identified as engaged in the act of begging is collected during surveys and rescue operations undertaken by the Implementing Authorities.

The Scheme accords special attention to children identified as engaged in the act of begging. Such children are reunited with their families, wherever feasible, or provided appropriate support through Anganwadi Centres and Schools. Children requiring institutional care are produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and linked to Child Care Institutions (CCIs) under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

As on 30.06.2026, a total of 2824 children have been identified, rescued and rehabilitated under the Scheme. Of these, 1549 children have been reunited with their parents/families, 309 children have been admitted to Anganwadi Centres, 290 children have been produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and 676 children have been admitted to Schools. The State-wise details are given at **Annexure-I**.

Age-wise and gender-wise data of identified children are not maintained separately under the Scheme.

(d): The Government is not implementing any scheme specifically for children engaged in the act of begging. However, the Central Sector Scheme SMILE-Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the act of Begging contains specific provisions for the identification, rescue, rehabilitation and mainstreaming of children engaged in the act of begging through family reunification, admission to schools and Anganwadi Centres, or institutional care through Child Welfare Committees and Child Care Institutions, wherever required. The Scheme has specific and focused provision for rehabilitation of children engaged in beggars. The framework provides for 100% rehabilitation and mainstreaming of children surveyed, profiled and rescued from beggary.

(e): Since there is a specific focus on rehabilitation and mainstreaming of children rescued from beggary under the ongoing SMILE-Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the act of Begging Scheme, there is no need for a separate scheme.

Annexure-I

State-wise details of children identified and rehabilitated under the Central Sector Scheme SMILE-Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging (as on 30.06.2026)

S. No.	State/UT	Children Identified	Reunited with Parents	Admitted to Anganwadi	Handed over to CWC	Admitted to School	Children Rehabilitated
1	Andhra Pradesh	191	177	0	4	10	191
2	Arunachal Pradesh	37	31	0	0	6	37
3	Assam	94	56	17	4	17	94
4	Bihar	91	0	37	0	54	91
5	Chandigarh	313	153	74	51	35	313
6	Chhattisgarh	1	0	0	1	0	1
7	Delhi	233	185	16	0	32	233
8	Gujarat	160	98	6	4	52	160
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	0	0	0	1
10	Jammu & Kashmir	76	17	0	57	2	76
11	Karnataka	76	71	5	0	0	76
12	Kerala	14	11	3	0	0	14
13	Madhya Pradesh	156	56	26	28	46	156
14	Maharashtra	208	31	53	1	123	208
15	Mizoram	2	0	2	0	0	2
16	Odisha	102	68	8	21	5	102
17	Puducherry	7	7	0	0	0	7
18	Punjab	21	10	11	0	0	21
19	Tamil Nadu	111	105	6	0	0	111
20	Telangana	3	1	0	0	2	3
21	Uttar Pradesh	927	471	45	119	292	927
Total		2824	1549	309	290	676	2824
