

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3735
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026**

HOMES FOR BEGGAR

3735. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the Supreme Court directives in M.S. Patter vs. State of NCT of Delhi (2025) mandating nationwide health, nutritional and living standards in State-run Beggars' Homes, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has notified uniform Model Guidelines on Care, Rehabilitation and Management of Beggar/Shelter Homes and established a centralized digital database for tracking inmates, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken to enforce infrastructure audits every two years and ensure strict occupancy limits to prevent overcrowding; and
- (d) the details of fund allocation and vocational training provided under the SMILE scheme to transition these institutions from carceral centers into spaces of social justice and rehabilitation State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a): The Government has taken cognizance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in M.S. Patter vs. State of NCT of Delhi (Civil Appeal No. 12216 of 2025). In compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 12.09.2025, the Ministry has developed Model Guidelines for Beggars' Homes through a National Consultative Committee (NCC) and extensive consultations with States and Union Territories. The Guidelines were circulated to all States/UTs vide letter dated 13.04.2026 for necessary compliance and effective implementation.

To facilitate preparation of the Guidelines, the Ministry constituted the National Consultative Committee (NCC) comprising representatives from the Ministry of Law & Justice, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the National Human Rights Commission, State/UT Governments, and Non-governmental organizations working in the sector.

The Model Guidelines provide a comprehensive framework for ensuring humane, dignified, and rights based rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging. They prescribe minimum standards for Beggars' Homes covering infrastructure and capacity, preventive healthcare and sanitation, nutrition and food safety, vocational training and rehabilitation, legal aid and awareness, child and gender sensitivity, accountability, oversight, monitoring, implementation and compliance.

(b): The Ministry has developed and circulated the uniform Model Guidelines on Care, Rehabilitation and Management of Beggars'/Shelter Homes to all States/UTs vide letter dated 13.04.2026 for necessary compliance and effective implementation.

Further, a dedicated mobile application has been developed, and login credentials have been shared with implementing cities to facilitate a comprehensive survey for identification and profiling of persons engaged in begging, with a view to ensuring their rehabilitation under the 'Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) - Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the act of Begging' (SMILE-Beggary) Scheme.

The Model Guidelines also provide that States/UTs shall establish a Digital Monitoring System to capture standardized information relating to admission of rescued persons/residents, health status, skill development and training, rehabilitation, release, follow-up, and family reunion, thereby enabling effective monitoring.

In addition, the National Online Portal (<https://www.dosje.gov.in/organisation/support-for-marginalized-individuals-for-livelihood-and-enterprise-smile/>) serves as a centralized repository of data and information relating to the SMILE-Beggary Scheme and facilitates real-time monitoring of its implementation across implementing States and Union territories through periodic reporting and maintenance of scheme-related information.

(c): As per the Model Guidelines, every Beggar/Shelter Home shall undergo a third-party infrastructure and social audit at least once every two years covering structural safety, disability and age-friendliness, electrical systems, sanitation, water supply, and safety and security of residents. The District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) or the designated authority shall monitor compliance and ensure timely rectification of the deficiencies identified during the audit.

The Model Guidelines also prescribe minimum space standards for Beggars'/Shelter Homes to prevent overcrowding and ensure dignified living conditions in Beggars'/Shelter Homes.

(d): Since inception of the SMILE-Beggary Scheme (23.10.2023) up to 31.07.2026, a total amount of ₹45.59 crore has been released under the Scheme, comprising ₹40.04 crore released to the implementing authorities/cities and the balance towards administrative and other scheme-related expenditure.

Under the Scheme, vocational training is imparted to eligible beneficiaries based on their aptitude, age, physical and mental condition, and local livelihood opportunities to facilitate their sustainable rehabilitation and mainstreaming. Such training includes, inter-alia, carpentry, tailoring, housekeeping, management of community toilets, sanitation services, hair cutting, security services, cooking, gardening, driving/operation of e-rickshaws and other

locally relevant trades. Beneficiaries are also facilitated in the formation of community/group-based Self-Help Groups and are linked with banks and other financial institutions for financial assistance to undertake self-employment and other income-generating activities such as tiffin stalls/food vending carts, vegetable vending carts and other group-based enterprises, including preparation of spices, pickles, snacks and papads.

As on 31.07.2026, a total of 10,446 persons, including 2,824 children, have been rehabilitated under the SMILE-Beggary Scheme. Children rescued under the Scheme are provided age-appropriate care, education, counselling and family reintegration and, therefore, are not covered under vocational training interventions. Accordingly, the State/UT-wise details of funds released and 7,622 adult beneficiaries rehabilitated under the Scheme are given in the **Annexure.**

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3735 due for answer on 11.08.2026 regarding "Homes for Beggar"

State/UT-wise details of funds released and adult beneficiaries rehabilitated under the SMILE-Beggary Scheme (as on 31.07.2026)

S.No.	State/UT	Funds Released (₹ Lakh)	Adult Beneficiaries Rehabilitated
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178.09	466
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.44	62
3.	Assam	207.56	472
4.	Bihar	145.39	364
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	43.09	39
6.	Chhattisgarh	97.40	0
7.	NCT of Delhi	306.07	139
8.	Goa	0.00	0
9.	Gujarat	212.49	293
10.	Haryana	70.43	0
11.	Himachal Pradesh	62.22	0
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	94.78	434
13.	Jharkhand	89.57	0
14.	Karnataka	305.45	63
15.	Keralam	210.89	418
16.	Ladakh	14.61	0
17.	Madhya Pradesh	157.37	1135
18.	Maharashtra	121.78	817
19.	Manipur	14.61	0
20.	Meghalaya	86.92	0
21.	Mizoram	72.31	50
22.	Nagaland	57.70	22
23.	Odisha	147.28	186
24.	Puducherry	90.65	171
25.	Punjab	61.43	0
26.	Rajasthan	132.26	0
27.	Sikkim	38.82	0
28.	Tamil Nadu	467.83	1557
29.	Telangana	74.56	50
30.	Tripura	14.61	0
31.	Uttar Pradesh	281.35	884
32.	Uttarakhand	86.18	0
33.	West Bengal	14.61	0
Total		4003.75	7622

Note: The rehabilitation figures relate to adult beneficiaries only. Children rescued under the Scheme are provided age-appropriate care, education, counseling and family reintegration and are, therefore, not included in the above figures.
