

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:439  
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2005  
CENSUS ON BEGGARS  
Senthil Dr. Raman

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

- (a) whether the Government has any census or estimates about the number of beggars in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that a large number of children are found begging on road crossings in Delhi;
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to curb begging and bring awareness among people to discourage beggars;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce any `Anti-Beggary laws`; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MEIRA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e) & (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 439 for answer on 25th August, 2005 raised by Dr. R. Senthil regarding `Census on Beggars`.

(a) No reliable estimate about the number of beggars in the country is available with Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is aware of children begging on road crossings in Delhi.

(d) The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 was extended to Delhi in March, 1961. The Act provides for apprehension of beggars and their detention at certified institutions. The Government of NCT of Delhi has constituted an anti-begging squad consisting of officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Delhi Police for apprehension of beggars and their detention at certified institutions. The Government of NCT of Delhi has also initiated intensive anti-begging drive at prominent begging places like temples, red light crossings, etc. They have launched an awareness campaign for sensitizing people against giving alms to beggars. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a Central Act, also provides for penal action against persons employing or using children for the purposes of beggary. The Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment also implements a Central Scheme called `An Integrated Programme for Street Children`. The scheme provides for shelter, nutrition, health care, education and recreation facilities to street children and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation. 44,934 children were covered under the scheme during 2004-05.

(e) No, Sir. Beggary including begging by children is sought to be prevented through enactment of legislation by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

(f) Does not arise.