

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2498

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2006

STREET VENDOR

Barman Shri Ranen;Bose Shri Subrata;Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

**Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to enact a legislation on street vendors ;
- (b) If so, the salient features thereof ;
- (c) Whether the urban vendors are facing impediments to earn their livelihood due to modernisation drive ;
- (d) If so, whether the Government proposes to take steps to eradicate their problem; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION(KUMARI SELJA)

- (a)&(b): Street vending is a State subject. Central Government does not have the mandate to enact legislation on street vending.
- (c) : Urban Street Vendors face problems such as forced evictions by the local and police authorities, lack of basic amenities like public toilets, drinking water, electricity, solid waste disposal, storage facility for their wares.
- (d)&(e) : Even though the street vending is state subject, this Ministry formulated National Policy on Urban Street Vendors in January, 2004 in order to provide and promote a supportive environment to the street vendors for earning livelihoods, as well as to ensure absence of congestion and maintenance of hygiene in public spaces and streets and circulated the Policy to all the States/UTs for appropriate adoption to suit local conditions and also respecting court decisions, if any. The salient feature of the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors are annexed.

ANNEXURE Annexure referred to in reply to Lok Sabha USQ No.2498 for 8.12.2006

**SALIENT FEATURES OF THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR URBAN STREET VENDORS.**

This Policy aims to ensure that Urban Street Vendors, an important segment of the urban population, find recognition for their contribution to society and is conceived of as a major initiative for urban poverty alleviation by provision of and support to dignified livelihood. The basic objectives of the Policy are:

To give vendors legal status by amending, enacting, repealing and implementing appropriate laws and providing legitimate hawking zones in urban development/ zoning plans.

To provide facilities for appropriate use of identified space including the creation of hawking zones in the urban development/zoning plans.

To eschew imposing numerical limits on access to public spaces by discretionary licenses and instead moving to nominal fee-based regulation of access. Where market forces like price, quality and demand will determine the number of vendors that can be sustained. Such a demand cannot be unlimited.

To make Street vendors a special component of the urban development/zoning plans by treating them as an integral and legitimate part of the urban distribution system.

To promote self-compliance amongst Street vendors.

To promote organizations of Street vendors e.g. Unions/Co-operatives/Associations and other forms of organization to facilitate their empowerment.

To set up participatory mechanisms with representation by urban vendors` organizations

(Unions/Co-operatives/Associations), Voluntary organizations, local authorities, the police, Residents Welfare Association (RWA) and

others for orderly conduct of urban vending activities.

To take measures for promoting a better future for child vendors by making appropriate interventions for their rehabilitation and schooling.

To facilitate/promote social security (pension, insurance etc.) and access to credit for Street vendors through promotion of SHGs/co-operatives/ Federations/Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) etc.