

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:422
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010
PREVENTION OF BEGGING
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether begging by children and senior citizens is a complex social problem, needing legislative, reformative and rehabilitative intervention;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Union Government has urged the State Governments to enact and implement the relevant laws on prevention of Begging and matters related thereto including rehabilitation of beggars;
- (d) if so, the details of the States which have enacted such laws and rehabilitated beggars;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to address the problem in a holistic manner at national level;and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

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

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.422 for answer on 26.04.2010 regarding `Prevention of Begging` by: SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN

(a) to (f): Beggary is a complex problem which needs to be addressed in a multi-pronged manner.

As per available information, 20 States and 2 Union Territories as shown in Annex have anti-beggary laws and Shelter homes/ institutions for beggars are functioning in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi.

The Central Government has requested State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to take appropriate measures to curb beggary and rehabilitate beggars. It also provides financial support to concerned agencies for looking after children in need of care and protection, and destitute older persons under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) respectively. Besides, under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) central assistance is also provided to States for giving pension to persons above 65 years, living below the poverty line, @ Rs. 200/- per month, which is meant to be supplemented by at least an equal contribution by the States.