

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:406

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009

STREET CHILDREN

Panda Shri Baijayant; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any estimate has been made about the number of street children in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether these children are also abused/exploited in various ways;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the welfare of these children and their rehabilitation; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 406 FOR 31.07.2009 BY SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA AND SHRI MANSUKH BHAI D. VASVA REGARDING 'STREET CHILDREN'

(a) & (b) No authentic data on number of street children in the country is available in the Ministry of Women and Child Development as their number is fluctuating in nature. However, the number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' is available State-wise in the Ministry's website-www.wcd.mc.in.

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development had carried out a study on Child Abuse the report of which was published in the year 2007. The study covered 13 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal with a sample size of 12,447 children which includes children in family environment not attending school, children in schools, children in institutional care, children at work, and children on the streets. Out of these, 2,317 children (18.6%) were street children. The main findings of the study specific to the abuse faced by street children. The main findings of the study specific to the abuse faced by street children are as under:

- (i) The overall incidence of physical abuse among street children was 66.8%.
- (ii) Majority of the street children facing physical abuse are in the age- group of 5-12 years.
- (iii) 54.51% street children reported having undergone sexual abuse.

(e) & (f) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a scheme namely 'An Integrated programme for Street Children' (IPSC) for the welfare and rehabilitation of street children. The aim of the scheme is to prevent destitution and withdrawal of children from a life on the street and their placement into the national mainstream. The details of the scheme are available in the Ministry's website.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has recently introduced a centrally sponsored scheme namely Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for implementation during the remaining XI Plan Period through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The existing IPSC has been merged under the new scheme. ICPS provides for setting up of open shelters for children in need of care and protection including street children, in urban and semi-urban areas. Provision has been made for a space in such shelters for children where they can play, use their time productively and engage themselves in creative activities through music, dance, drama, yoga & meditation, computers, indoor and outdoor games, etc. for their overall growth and development. It also provides for fulfilling their basic requirements for food, nutrition and health. Provisions have also been made for quality and flexi-time education and vocational training. Counseling, guidance and life skill education is also provided for.