

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3570

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010

PREVENTION OF BEGGING

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Ju Dev Shri Dilip Singh;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Sugavanam Shri E.G.;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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, reformatory 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 so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (D. NAPOLEON)

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

The Central Government has requested State Governments and UT Administrations to effectively implement their existing laws or enact a new law in case such law is not in existence.

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

The Central Government 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.