

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:259

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2010

STREET CHILDREN

Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the scheme ``An Integrated Programme for Street Children`` has been discontinued;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct a study to ascertain the number of street children in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to create a secured and caring environment for the street children and their overall development?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : The statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS [A] TO [E] OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 259 FOR 26.11.2010 BY SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH AND SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR REGARDING 'STREET CHILDREN'

[a] to [e]: Evaluation of the child protection schemes of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, including the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children', in 2007 revealed shortcomings and gaps in these schemes and their implementation. To bridge these gaps and to provide safe and secure environment for overall development of children in difficult circumstances, the Government of India in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, has introduced a new comprehensive Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) w.e.f. 2009-10 by merging three erstwhile schemes, including the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' with additional components. This Scheme is being implemented through State Governments/ UT Administrations.

Under this Scheme, there is provision for setting up of 'Open Shelters' for children in need of care and protection, including the street children, in urban and semi-urban areas. The programmes and activities of these Open Shelters inter alia include age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, bridge education, linkages to the National Open School Programme (NOSP), health care, counseling etc.

There is no proposal in the Ministry of Women and Child Development to conduct a specific study to ascertain the number of street children in the country; However, ICPS provides for setting up of District Child Protection Societies by the State Governments/ UT Administrations in every district of the State. The role and responsibility of the District Child Protection Society includes identifying families and children at risk to prevent destitution of children and carrying out a situational analysis of children in difficult circumstances, including street children.