

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5280
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011
CHILDREN ON STREETS
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

- (a) whether thousands of children including in Delhi and in metro cities spend their nights on the streets;
- (b) if so, whether poverty is the biggest reason behind it;
- (c) if so, whether these children are from the deprived sections of the society such as dalits and other backward classes;
- (d) if so, whether these children becomes drug addicts and later are involved in the anti-social activities; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken to prevent the same?

Answer

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

- (a) to (d) While there is no authentic data in this regard, poverty may be one of the reasons for children spending their nights on the streets and thereby falling prey to addiction.
- (e) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)' with the objective to create a safe and secure environment for overall development of children who are in need of care and protection, including street children, as well as children in conflict with law. Under the Scheme, there is provision for opening of 'Open Shelters' for providing care and rehabilitation services to children in need of care and protection, including the street children, in urban and semi-urban areas.