

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:51  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013  
SHELTERING HOMELESS  
Jindal Shri Naveen;Patil Shri C. R.

**Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the total number of homeless people in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the report on Urban Homelessness by National Advisor on Homeless which was presented to the Supreme Court Commissioners, highlighting the failure of many States to provide proper shelter facilities to the homeless persons;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the Government's reaction on the findings of the report; and
- (e) the details of the steps being taken by the Government for providing shelter facilities to the homeless across the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (AJAYMAKEN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 51 FOR 27.02.2013 REGARDING SHELTERING HOMELESS

(a) & (b): Provisional Data from Census 2011 does not provide details of the number of homeless people across the country. However, the Census of India, 2001 had enumerated 'Houseless Households' in the country. 'Houseless Households' have been defined as households who do not live in buildings or census houses but live in the open on roadside, pavements, in hume pipes, under flyovers and staircases, or in the open places of worship, mandaps, railway platforms, etc. There were an estimated 1,87,810 houseless households in urban areas as per the Census 2001. State-wise details of the same is annexed.

(c) & (d): 'Land' and 'Colonisation' are State subjects, therefore it is the primary responsibility of State Governments to provide shelters to all citizens. Report on Urban Homelessness by National Advisor on Homeless which was presented to the Supreme Court Commissioners, has not been received by Government of India.

(e): A centrally sponsored programme namely 'Shelters for Urban Homeless (SUH)' has been worked out by this Ministry in order to provide 24x7 shelters to shelterless people with basic facilities as part of the proposed National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM). In-principle approval of the Planning Commission has been received. The said programme would be launched after obtaining other necessary approvals. However, no firm commitment for its finalization can be given at this juncture.