

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2405

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

ANTI BEGGING MEASURES

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

- (a) whether the number of beggars is increasing in the country including major cities like Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the effective steps taken by the Union Government to curb the menace of begging including legislative measures for its eradication;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and private sector to ensure rehabilitation of beggars and for launching massive public education programme against such activities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a) & (b) There is no authentic data to indicate that the number of beggars in the country including major cities like Delhi is increasing. The Department of Social Welfare, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi had conducted a research study on beggars through Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi in the year 2006. Accordingly to this study, the approximate population of beggars in Delhi was 58,570 at that time.

(c) The Union Government has requested the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations to take appropriate measures to curb beggary and rehabilitate beggars. Further, two National Consultation Meetings have been held one each on 1st July, 2010 and 12th July, 2012, with the representatives of Central/State Govts., NGOs, Institutes and individual experts in the field of beggary to discuss the issues related to beggary. In these meetings, it was, inter-alia, recommended that

- (i) a Model Legislation for Elimination of Beggary should be brought out that can be suitably adopted/adapted by States/UTs and
- (ii) the feasibility of formulating a Central Scheme for rehabilitation of beggars may be explored.

(d) & (e) At present there is no proposal to involve Non-Governmental Organizations and private sector in this regard.