

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2970

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013

BEGGING

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of hundreds of young children engaged in begging at almost all the traffic signals in the country including Delhi without proper clothing and living in un-hygienic conditions; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken to check these activities and for proper rehabilitation, education and health facilities for such children?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) & (b) Presently there is no central legislation on beggary. However, the children who are engaged in begging activities are treated as children in need of Care and Protection under the provision of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and the District Child Welfare Committee deals with such cases and rehabilitates them through "Integrated Child Protection Scheme" (ICPS) being implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Further, in Delhi, the children who are engaged in begging activities at traffic signals are rescued by the police and produced before Child Welfare Committee. At present, the Delhi government has set up the following Institutions for Children in need of care and protection:

- i. There are 7 Child Welfare Committees, who are the Competent Authority for children in need of care & protection
- ii. There are 21 Child Care Institutions for the children in need of care and protection set up under the provisions of aforesaid Act.
- iii. Besides this, the Government has given recognition to 41 NGO run Children Homes.
- iv. The Department has also notified 8 NGO run Shelter Homes to give shelter to these children.
- v. There are 15 Open Shelter for Children in urban & semi-urban areas under Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

The children in need of Care & Protection are housed in the aforesaid Homes and are provided with free boarding, lodging, food, formal and non-formal education, medical services, vocational training, and recreation facilities for their growth and development. These institutions are also housing destitute/runaway/ missing/homeless, children.