

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2135
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
WELFARE OF BEGGARS
Charitra Shri Ram

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

- (a) whether it is true that the begging community is the most neglected community in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to turn begging community into manpower resources through various welfare schemes meant for them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (d): The States are responsible for taking necessary preventive and rehabilitative steps for beggars. As per available information, 20 States and 2 Union Territories have enacted their own anti-beggary legislation or adopted legislation enacted by other States/UTs.

Presently, there is no Scheme of the Central Government on Beggary. A Scheme for Protection, Care and Rehabilitation of Destitutes/Beggars is under formulation, inter alia, to provide basic services like food, shelter, health care, counselling and skill development training to able bodied persons so as to facilitate their reintegration in the society.