

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5615  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015  
BEGGING AMONG CHILDREN  
Ranjan Smt. Ranjeet

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

- (a) whether the Government has any data regarding the number of children engaged in begging in the entire country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the reasons for such children engaged in begging and if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the said practice is a violation of the Child Rights Act and Right to Education Act; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government has taken any initiative to check this practice and ensure the rehabilitation and education of such children?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) The Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, has informed that according to the Census 2011, the population of Beggars, Vagrants etc in the age group of 0-14 years is as follows:

Beggars, Vagrants etc in the age-group 0-14 year (Non- workers) 372217 Beggars, Vagrants etc in the age-group 5-14 year (Marginal Workers) 41453

The State-wise details are enclosed as Annexure-I, Annexure-II respectively.

(c) No such study has been conducted by this Ministry in this regard.

(d) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights under the Ministry of Women & Child Development has informed that the said practice is a violation of the Child Rights Act. The children who are engaged in begging activities are treated as children in need of care and protection under the provisions 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 M/o Women and Child Development. The sub-section (1) of Section 24 of the JJ Act, 2000, provides that whoever employs or uses any juvenile or the child for the purpose or causes any juvenile to beg shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine. Further, sub-section (2) provides that whoever having the actual charge of, or control over a juvenile or the child abets the commission of the offence punishable under the sub-section

(1), shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and shall also be liable to fine.

Further, Ministry of Human Resource Development has informed that the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education to all children in age group of 6 to 14 years. The RTE Act places the responsibility on the appropriate government and the local authority to provide free elementary education and ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education to every child in the age group of six to fourteen years. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) have been entrusted with the task of monitoring children's right to education under Section 31 of the RTE Act, 2009. The State Governments have set up State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs)/Right to Education Protection Authority (REPA) for the purpose and notified decentralized grievance redressal systems.

(e) The States are responsible for taking necessary preventive and rehabilitative steps. 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. National Consultation Meetings were held with the representatives of Central/State Governments, 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 to explore the feasibility of framing a Central Scheme for rehabilitation of Beggars. Accordingly, a Scheme for Protection, Care and Rehabilitation of Destitutes is under formulation.