

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:352
ANSWERED ON:11.07.2014
STREET CHILDREN
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the street children engaged in begging across the country despite the existence of Rights of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Delhi and Mumbai, as on date and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is a conflict between the official survey and surveys conducted by various social organisations about the number of street children in the country particularly in metropolitan cities and if so, the details thereof, survey-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to conduct a national survey of such children to ensure proper implementation of the relevant existing laws and bring them into the mainstream;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a): The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) through State Governments/UT Administrations with the objective of creating safe and protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, including street children engaged in begging across the country. Under ICPS, financial support is provided for setting up and maintenance of various types of Homes and Open Shelters run by States/UTs or by voluntary organisations.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Women and Child Development have not conducted any survey to assess the number of street children engaged in begging across the country. However, a rapid assessment survey of street involved children carried out by Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (YaR), New Delhi and Don Bosco Research Centre, Mumbai in 16 cities of India has come to the notice of the Government of India. As per the aforesaid survey, the number of street involved children in 16 cities of the country, including metropolitan cities is as under:

Sl. No. Name of the City Number of Street involved Children

1.	New Delhi	69,976
2.	Mumbai	16,059
3.	Kolkata	8,287
4.	Chennai	2,374
5.	Bangalore	7,523
6.	Hyderabad	1,797
7.	Trivandrum	140
8.	Chandigarh	2,323
9.	Guwahati	5,534
10.	Dimapur	2,455
11.	Imphal	851
12.	Shillong	872
13.	Vijayawada	2,238
14.	Salem	5,752
15.	Goa	1,287
16.	Baroda	2,428

(d) to (f): The Ministry of Women and Child Development has no proposal to conduct a National survey of street children across the country. However, one of the objectives of ICPS is to map the needs and services for children and families at risk. Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations under the Scheme for, inter-alia, undertaking such exercise at district level and assessing number of children in difficult circumstances, including street children.