

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.79
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2022

ADOPTION RATES UNDER CARA

79 SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the adoption rates under Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) are falling, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has kept a record of the number of children who have been adopted in the last three years, gender-wise;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the waiting time between the adoptive children and prospective parents may sometimes exceed twelve months;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to ease the tedious application process under CARA and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (F) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.79 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2022 RAISED BY SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA REGARDING ADOPTION RATES UNDER CARA

(a) : As per information received from Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), the number of adoptions depend on children legally free for adoption as declared by the Child Welfare Committee. The Government has come out with the amendment in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 in 2021, empowering the District Magistrates to function as nodal authority in the district in the matter of children in need of care and protection and also to issue adoption order. As a result, out of 905 pending cases for adoptions, 361 adoption orders have been issued between the date of notification i.e. 23.09.2022 and 05.12.2022.

(b) & (c) : Yes Sir. Gender-wise number of children adopted in the last three years i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 is as under :

SI.No	Year	In-country			Inter-country		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	2019-20	1413	1938	3351	145	249	394
2	2020-21	1286	1856	3142	183	234	417
3	2021-22	1293	1698	2991	155	259	414

(d) & (e) : Yes Sir. The waiting period of the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) depends on the availability of children who are legally free for adoption. It also depends on the choice of the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) to adopt from a particular State and also the age group preferred. While there is a long queue to adopt a normal young child upto six years of age, there is no waiting period for the PAPs who desire to adopt a child having special needs and a child from immediate placement category (mostly older children). Further, the waiting time is relevant for the PAPs only as the child does not wait for the family.

With effect from 10th November 2022, Government has facilitated for the Resident Indians/Non-Resident Indians/ Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Card holder PAPs to adopt a child from '7-day portal' irrespective of the seniority in their socio-cultural milieu which has been highly appreciated by the waiting parents.

(f) : On the basis of feedback received from the stakeholders and experts, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has framed the Adoption Regulations, 2022 in-line with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) which has been notified on 23.09.2022. The Adoption Regulations, 2022 were framed keeping in mind the issues and challenges faced by CARA and other stake holders including the Adoption Agencies & Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs).

Some of the salient features include (i) issue of Adoption Order by District Magistrate instead of Court, (ii) upper age limit for PAPs reduced to 85 years for couple and 40 years for a single PAPs in case they are adopting a child below 2 years, (iii) 7-day adoption effort launched by CARA for Resident Indian (RI), Non-

Resident Indian (NRI), and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) PAPs, (iv) Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to determine the health status of the child based on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, (v) strict time line has been laid down for uploading LFA (Legally Free for Adoption) within maximum period of ten days, (vi) PAPs with more than two children do not qualify to get referral for a normal child, (vii) mandatory counselling has been stipulated for all the relevant stakeholders like prospective parents and older children at pre-adoption, adoption and post-adoption stages, (viii) time lines at various stages like uploading of LFA (Legally Free for Adoption) within ten days, examination of special needs children within a period of fifteen days by the Chief medical Officer and verification of adoption application documents by District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) within five days, (ix) emphasis on foster adoption of adoptable children already in foster care after a period of two years and (x) stringent measures have been provisioned for PAPs becoming reason for disruption or dissolution.

Further, Chief Medical Officers all over the country are registering themselves on the portal to determine health status of the special need children and for necessary medical intervention for fast tracking placement of such children.
