

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.80**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2022

**ADOPTION OF ORPHANED CHILDREN RESIDING IN GOVERNMENT  
INSTITUTIONS**

80: MS.SAROJ PANDEY:

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

- (a) the number of orphaned children in the country who are living in Government institutions officially at present; and
- (b) the number of pending applications for adoption of these children at present and the steps taken by Government for quick disposal of these applications so that these children can get home and parents?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) AND (B) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.80 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2022 RAISED BY MS. SAROJ PANDEY ADOPTION OF ORPHANED CHILDREN RESIDING IN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS**

(a) : As on 31.03.2022, 76118 Children in Need of Care and Protection(CNCP) are residing in 2245 Child Care Institutions (CCIs) including Government Institutions funded under Mission Vatsalya Scheme in the country. This includes orphans/abandoned/surrendered children also. Further, all CNCP children cannot be placed in adoption. Only such children who do not have legal claimants and are legally free for adoption by Child Welfare Committee are placed in adoption.

(b) :As per information received from Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), there are 30,444 (29526 for in-country adoptions and 918 for inter-country adoptions) pending applications for adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children. Since, children, who are legally free for adoption, are less in comparison to waiting parents, the Prospective Adoptive Parents have to wait while children do not have to wait.

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) District Magistrates have been empowered to issue Adoption Orders 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.

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