

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3346**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

**CHILD ADOPTION RATE**

3346. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken into cognizance the rising imbalance in ratio of abandoned/ orphaned children who are not in institutional care and children in institutionalized care available for adoption;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to make the institutionalized care centres accessible to more children;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken steps to encourage the child adoption rate in the country;
- (d) if so, details thereof along with the budget allocated for the same;
- (e) whether the Ministry is planning to increase the number of centre-run cradle points across the country; and
- (f) if so, details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) : The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely Mission Vatsalya through State and UT Governments for delivering services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) including abandoned/ orphaned children who are in institutional care. The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the scheme support *inter-alia* age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, etc.

As informed by Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), statutory body of the Ministry, the number of registered orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children in institutional care, as on 27.03.2023, are 508, 1925 and 1267 respectively. The Ministry does not maintain data on such children who are not in the institutional care.

(c) & (d) : The Ministry of Women and Child Development under Mission Vatsalya supports the State and NGO run Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) registered under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021), where adoptable children of below six years of age are provided residential care. These SAAs work under the overall supervision of the District Child Protection Unit and assist District Magistrate in administering Adoption programme. The Ministry regularly follows up with the State/ UT Governments so as to ensure that

SAAAs adhere to the standards of care as per the JJ Act, 2015 provisions. Various advisories have been sent to all State/UT Governments regarding mandatory inspection of all CCIs including SAAAs. The maintenance grant has been revised to Rs.2500/- per child per month under Mission Vatsalya Scheme from the financial year 2022-23 for the children living in SAAAs. Budget Allocation for the current financial year under Mission Vatsalya Scheme is Rs.1472.17 crores.

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is mandated to promote adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children in the country through State Adoption Resource Agencies and other stakeholders. CARA has been undertaking various activities to promote legal adoption in the country as under:

- i. During the current year, awareness campaigns were created about the legal adoption by focusing on training and events with stakeholders (Specialised Adoption Agency, State Adoption Resource Agency, Child Care Institutions) on Adoption Regulations; Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS) portal.
- ii. 305 special posts on social media platforms on awareness campaigns on legal adoption, success stories on adoption events and trainings organized in the month of November, 2022 celebrated as "Adoption Awareness Month".
- iii. Training/events conducted specifically on Salient Features of New Adoption Regulations 2022 to promote legal adoption in the country.

(e) & (f): Mission Vatsalya Scheme provides for setting up Cradle Baby Reception Centres in at least one SAA (preferably government run) per District. SAAAs are approved on the basis of requirements and needs by States/UTs. There is no proposal at present to increase the number of centre-run cradle points across the country.

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