

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.789
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN SPECIALISED ADOPTION AGENCIES

789. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

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

- (a) the number of children who died in Specialised Adoption Agencies in the year 2022;
- (b) the reasons for the deaths of over 2000 children who have been adopted via Specialised Adoption Agencies; and
- (c) apart from inspections, whether Government plans to take any other step to prevent the death of these innocent children?

ANSWER

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

- (a): As per Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS), an online application/portal of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) for adoption, a total of 79 children died in the year 2022 (April, 2022 to December, 2022).
- (b): The reason for uncertain death of many infants/neonatal admitted in Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) is due to unsafe abandonments. These children are left unattended because of which children get harm like bitten by animals causing necrosis or can be asphyxia. Low birth weight and pre-matured birth may be the reasons of death of children. After adoption procedure, the children are handed over to their adoptive parents. However, no report is available regarding death of adopted children via Specialised Adoption Agencies.
- (c): The Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely "Mission Vatsalya" (erstwhile Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme) under which support is provided to State and UT Governments for delivering services for children in difficult circumstances. The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the Mission Vatsalya scheme support *inter-alia* age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc.

For improving quality child care in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and particularly in Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs), CARA has been advising the agencies through circulars and through various training and development activities. Adoption Regulations 2022 emphasizes on quality child care by the adoption agencies and also mandates Chief Medical Officers for necessary interventions.
