

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 792**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

**UP-BRINGING OF ORPHANED CHILDREN**

792. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has made any special arrangement for the upbringing of children, orphaned during the COVID period;
- (b) whether the data of orphaned children is available with Government;
- (c) if so, the total number of children orphaned during the COVID period;
- (d) the total number of such children in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (e) the arrangements made by Government for the upbringing of these children, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d): PM CARES for Children scheme has been launched to support children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of the Scheme is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of Children in a sustained manner, and enable their well being through health insurance, empower them through education and equip them for self-sufficient existence with financial support till 23 years of age. The scheme is accessible through an online portal i.e. [pmcaresforchildren.in](http://pmcaresforchildren.in). Benefits have been given to 4345 eligible children including 441 children of Uttar Pradesh under the Scheme.
- (e): A pro-rata amount has been credited in the post office account of each identified child in such a manner that the corpus for each child becomes Rs.10 lakhs at the time of attaining 18 years of age. Children are entitled to receive monthly stipend between the age of 18 and 23 years, by investing the corpus of Rs.10 lakhs into Monthly Income Scheme of Post Office. They are entitled to receive the amount of Rs.10 lakh on attaining the age of 23 years. Children staying with relatives are receiving Rs. 4000/- per month under Mission Vatsalya Scheme. Under the scheme, provision has been made for admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan/Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya or Private Schools. Further, annual scholarship of Rs.20,000/- is provided to all school going children of class 1-12. Children are also assisted in obtaining education loan for Professional courses / Higher Education in India for which interest is borne by PM CARES Fund. All children have been enrolled under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojna (AB PM-JAY) with a health insurance cover of Rs.5 lakh. The coverage of health insurance would be provided till they attain the age of 23 years.

Children can also avail the benefits of 'Swanath Scholarship Scheme for Students' which is being implemented by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to study further in AICTE approved Institutions and courses. Under the scheme, Rs. 50,000/- per annum is provided to each student for every year of study (i.e. maximum 4 years for first year admitted Degree students and maximum 3 years for Diploma Students) as lump sum amount towards payment of college fee, purchase of computer, stationery, books, equipment, software etc. These children are also covered under the initiative of AICTE, "Kaushal Augmentation and Restructuring Mission of AICTE" (KARMA), for all AICTE approved institutions in the country to overcome the dual challenge of scarcity of skilled manpower in jobs and low skill level of those who are presently in jobs.

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