

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1265
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023

CHILD ADOPTION POLICY

1265 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU :

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

- (a) the number of children adopted by Indians and foreigners during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether child adoption has increased during the said period, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received complaints regarding complicated formalities involved in the adoption procedure, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by Government to simplify child adoption procedure in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : The details of number of children adopted by the Indians and Foreigners during each of the last three years and current year (as on 10.12.2023) are as under :

Financial Year	In-country Adoption	Inter-country Adoption
2020-2021	3142	417*
2021-2022	2991	414*
2022-2023	3010	431*
2023-2024 (As on 10.12.2023)	2248	224*

* Data of Foreigners + OCI PAPs

Source : CARINGS

(c) & (d) : Ministry of Women and Child Development has notified Adoption Regulations, 2022 on 23th September, 2022 which have been framed in line with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021). The Adoption Regulations, 2022 were framed keeping in mind the issues and challenges faced by Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) and other stakeholders 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) PAPs with more than two children do not qualify to get referral for a normal child, (vi) mandatory counselling has been stipulated for all the relevant stakeholders like prospective parents and older children at pre-adoption, adoption and post-adoption stages, (vii) 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, (viii) emphasis on foster adoption of adoptable children already in foster care after a period of two years, earlier a period of 5 years was prescribed under foster care, before the child could be adopted by foster parents, and (ix) stringent measures have been provisioned for PAPs becoming reason for disruption or dissolution.

CARA has developed CARINGS, an online adoption platform for building bridges and creating links through a robust web-based management system designed to bring transparency in the adoption system and also curtailing delays at various level. The CARINGS portal has been further simplified. However, as informed by CARA, there is no record of any formal complaints regarding complicated formalities involved in the adoption procedure.
