

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3040
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE

3040. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

Will The Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the details on the measures taken to combat child trafficking and rehabilitate victims;
- (b) the steps taken to strengthen the foster care and adoption systems, and whether the Government is implementing any new policies, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry is addressing the issue of street children and providing them access to education, health, and safety?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) As per Section 2 (14) (ii) and (ix) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), a child who is found working in contravention of labour laws for the time being in force or is found begging, or living on the street and who is found vulnerable and is likely to be inducted into drug abuse or trafficking is included as a “child in need of care and protection”, among others.

The JJ Act, 2015 mandates a security net of service delivery structures to provide Institutional and non-Institutional care to these children. The primary responsibility of execution of the Act lies with the State/UTs.

Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Mission Vatsalya Scheme for care, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children in difficult circumstances. Under

the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations, for, inter-alia, undertaking a situational analysis of children in difficult circumstances including trafficked children, for setting up and maintenance of various types of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) for providing various rehabilitative services through institutional and non-institutional care.

Child-Help line (1098) is an emergency phone outreach service for children in crisis which links them to emergency and long term care and rehabilitation services. The service can be accessed by any child in crises or an adult on behalf of/for a child, by dialing a four digit toll free number - 1098. Under Mission Vatsalya Scheme, Child Helpline is running in coordination with State and District functionaries and integrated with the Emergency Response Support System 112 (ERSS-112) helpline of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) to all States/UTs on 31.03.2023. A round the clock WCD Control Room (WCD-CR) have been established in all the 36 States/UTs. Ministry has approved 762 Child Helpline Units at all the DCPUs. Child Help Desks have also been approved for 135 Railway Stations and 16 Bus Stands.

Further the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has taken extensive measures to combat child trafficking and rehabilitate victims. Details have been placed at **Annexure.**

(b) Government of India has circulated the Foster Care Guidelines, 2024 on 26/04/2024 for implementation of foster care of older children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

As far as adoption is concerned, the Adoption Regulations, 2022 have been notified by the Government of India. The Adoption Regulations inter-alia provides -

- i. District Magistrate (DM) to issue Adoption Orders;
- ii. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to determine the health status of the child;
- iii. State based referral priority has been introduced so as to ensure that the socio-cultural milieu of the child is not negatively impacted in the process.

The adoption is undertaken through Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS) online portal.

(c): 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. Under Mission Vatsalya Scheme, Open Shelters registered by the State Government are supported to look after children in need of care and protection including child substance abusers for the short term based on the need assessment of the district. Open Shelters provide support to children missing, trafficked, working, children in street situation, child beggars, children affected by any natural disaster, children living in unauthorized areas/slums, children of migrant population, children of socially marginalized groups etc. These shelters are used for educating, counselling and imparting life skills to children in difficult circumstances, so as to keep them away from a life in the streets.

Further, the Baal Swaraj Portal, developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), facilitates online tracking and real-time digital monitoring of children in street situations. Individual login credentials have been provided to District Child Protection Units (DCPU) and Principal Secretaries of the Departments of Women and Child Development/Social Welfare across all States and Union Territories, enabling them to input requisite data at various stages.

ANNEXURE

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3040 FOR ANSWER ON 26.03.2025 RAISED BY SHRI BABUBHAI JESANG BHAI DESAI REGARDING CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) plays a crucial role in combating child trafficking in India by investigating violations, recommending legal proceedings, and promoting awareness and research on child rights, including those related to trafficking. The Commission, as per its mandate under the CPCRA Act, 2005, examines all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by trafficking along with other forms of exploitations and recommends appropriate remedial measures. The Commission also studies treaties and other international instruments and undertake periodical review of existing policies, programmes and other activities in connection with trafficking of children and makes recommendations for their effective implementation in the best interest of children.

The Commission also inquiries into complaints and takes suo-motu notice of matters relating to instances of child trafficking that comes to its notice, non-implementation of the available laws/legislations/schemes/policies/guidelines etc. in connection with combating child trafficking.

Some of the measures taken by NCPCR on preventing and combating child trafficking include-

1. Model Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Post-Rescue Procedure for Repatriation of Trafficked Children Survivors Rescued from Delhi and NCR.
2. Advisory to States to regulate placement agencies for prevention of trafficking and exploitation of children
3. National, Regional State and District Level Sensitization cum Awareness Generation Workshops on “Combating Child Trafficking” on Pan India basis.
4. Virtual meetings to discuss the issue of Child Trafficking with SCPCRs of Source Hotspot States with focus on Eastern and North Eastern States of our country
5. Advisory Note/ Recommendations on “Preventing Child Trafficking Post Lock Down “Due to COVID 19 Pandemic
6. Campaign on “ बाल तस्करी से आजादी” Combating Child Trafficking in Bordering and Adjoining Districts of India NCPCR commemorated “World day against Human Trafficking” observed on 30th July, 2022. On this occasion, NCPCR rolled out a 25

days long campaign i.e. “Combating Child Trafficking - “बाल तस्करी से आज़ादी ” in 75 bordering Districts of India. The campaign focused on holding Sensitization Workshops for 1st Responders i.e. Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU)s/ Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPO)s Child Welfare Committees (CWC)s, Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB)s and District Child Protection Units (DCPU)s of the identified districts. As an extension of this campaign, the Commission held similar such campaign in 100 bordering and adjoining Districts of India starting May 2024.
