

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3192
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025

WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORPHANS

3192 SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) details of steps taken by the Ministry for welfare and development of orphans;
- (b) details of schemes being run for orphans along with allocations during last five years;
- (c) the total number of Children Homes being run or supported by the Ministry; and
- (d) details of assistance provided to the State of Punjab for the welfare of orphans?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) which is the primary legislation for ensuring safety, security, dignity and wellbeing of children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with law by catering to their basic needs through care, protection, development, treatment, rehabilitation and social re-integration.

As per section 2(42) of JJ Act, 2015, an orphan means a child who is without biological or adoptive parents or legal guardian or whose legal guardian is not willing to take or capable of taking care of the child.

Under the JJ Act 2015, the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) have been empowered to take decisions with regard to the children in need of care and protection including orphaned, abandoned and surrendered. They are also mandated to monitor the function of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs). Similarly, the Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) are empowered to take decisions regarding the welfare of children in conflict with law. The Act defines

standards of care and protection to secure the best interest of children living in CCIs and aims to provide family environment through non-institutional care services which includes sponsorship, foster care and aftercare.

The Ministry has notified the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021), which has come into effect from 01.09.2022. The Ministry has also notified the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2022 on 01.09.2022 and Adoption Regulations, 2022 on 23.09.2022. Among others, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) empowers the District Magistrate to function as the focal point for implementation of JJ Act, 2015 and decide the cases of adoption.

Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya' in all States/ UTs on predefined cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments to deliver various services for children in difficult circumstances including orphan children. The scheme provides institutional care and non-institutional care. Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the Mission Vatsalya scheme provide, *inter-alia*, age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. Under Non-Institutional Care Service, support is provided through Sponsorship, Foster Care, Adoption and After Care. Under non-institutional care, children staying with their relatives under kinship care are provided Rs.4000/- per month for their boarding & lodging and other support. The details of funds released to the States/UTs under Mission Vatsalya Scheme (erstwhile Child Protection Services Scheme) during last five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are as under :

(Rs. in Crore)

FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
709.78	635.46	884.76	1341.68	1394.31

The Adoption Regulations, 2022, *inter-alia*, include empowerment of the District Magistrates to issue adoption orders within 60 days, time lines at various stages of adoption like uploading of Legally Free for Adoption (LFA) 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 etc., have been laid down. A child can now be adopted by the foster family after 2 years of foster care, instead of earlier provision of 5 years. Further, the Ministry has issued advisory

to all States/UTs to link the CCIs with Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) portal. Further, as per Rule- 44 of JJ Model Rules, 2022), every child, who does not get a family, either in in-country or in inter-country adoption and is placed under the hard to place category, is eligible to be placed in foster care, by the CWC on the recommendation of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) or the Specialised Adoption Agency.

(c) : As on 31.03.2025, total 2559 Child Care Institutions were supported under Mission Vatsalya Scheme.

(d) : During FY 2024-25, an amount of Rs.14.76 crore was released to the State of Punjab under Mission Vatsalya Scheme and 506 children including orphan children were supported under the Scheme.
