

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *394
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2026

CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS

*394. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) whether social audits have exposed poor living conditions and inadequate safety protocols within Child Care Institutions (CCIs) across the country;
- (b) the reasons for challenges under Mission Vatsalya in ensuring the mental health and nutritional support of vulnerable children;
- (c) the details of the shortage of trained counselors, child protection officers and functional juvenile justice boards;
- (d) the measures to strictly monitor and shut down unregistered private CCIs; and
- (e) the steps taken to increase funding for family-based foster care and to overhaul the institutional care ecosystem?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *394 FOR ANSWER ON 01.04.2026 RAISED BY DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL REGARDING CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS

(a): The Ministry of women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for the administration of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) which is the primary legislation for ensuring safety, security, dignity and well-being of children and is implemented by all the States and UTs including the State of Uttarakhand. The Act creates statutory structures at the State and District levels which include State Child Protection Society (SCPS), State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs). It also provides for establishment of Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

Under the JJ Act 2015 (Sections 27-30), the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) have been empowered to take decisions with regard to the children in need of care and protection, keeping their best interest in mind. They are also mandated to monitor the function of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs). As per Section 106 of the JJ Act 2015, the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Act lies with the State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. At the national and state level, the JJ Act provides the National/State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights to monitor the implementation of the Act (Section 109).

Inspection Committees are mandated under section 54 of JJ Act, 2015 to visit such facilities housing children. District Magistrate is the nodal authority in the district for children in need of care and protection and to take action on the findings of the report submitted by the Inspection Committees. The Ministry regularly follows up with the State and Union Territory Governments and various advisories have been issued so as to ensure the effective implementation of Mission Vatsalya Scheme.

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(b) & (c): The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely 'Mission Vatsalya', through the State and UT Governments to deliver various services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) as well as Children in Conflict with Law (CCL). These services include Institutional Care and Non-Institutional Care. 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 non-institutional care, support is provided to the children through Sponsorship, Foster Care, Adoption and After Care.

As per Mission Vatsalya Guidelines, a CCI having capacity of 50 children can have Special Unit for 10 children with special needs. Similarly, a CCI having the capacity of 25 children can have Special Unit for 5 children.

The scheme provides for Special Educators/therapist and Nurse required for such children in CCIs. The Scheme also provides the institutions, inter-alia, with specialized equipment and materials like Psychological test materials, training materials for speech and language, teaching materials, wheel chairs. CCIs under Mission Vatsalya also provide counselling and

psychological support services as a standard component of care. Rehabilitation frameworks include individual care plans, health services, and emotional support mechanisms.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie has developed an online training module on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection for Children) Act, 2015 for capacity building of multiple stakeholders such as State Governments and UT Administrations, district authorities and others. Various training and capacity building programmes have been conducted for child protection functionaries and other stakeholders across the States and UTs.

(d): Section 41 of the JJ Act, 2015 mandates every institution which is meant, either wholly or partially, for housing children in need of care and protection or children in conflict with law, to be registered under the Act. The act further provides State Governments the power to grant and cancel registration of Child Care Institutions which provide rehabilitation and reintegration services as specified in section 53 of the Act.

(e): Mission Vatsalya promotes family based non-institutional care of children in difficult circumstances based on the principle of institutionalization of children as a measure of last resort. Under non-institutional care, support is provided to the children through Sponsorship, Foster Care, Adoption and After Care. The scheme provides Rs.4000/- per month to children eligible for non-institutional care (Sponsorship/ Foster Care/ Aftercare) on cost sharing basis.

The Ministry has also issued Model Foster Care Guidelines, 2024 to ensure clarity, efficiency and compliance amongst the stakeholders.

To improve the institutional care system, the Government of India has supported in establishing the statutory and service delivery structures under Mission Vatsalya Scheme, at State and District level namely State Child Protection Society (SCPS), State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) and Child Care Institutions (CCIs). Further, under the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act, 2021, the District Magistrates have been made the focal point for the administration of JJ Act.
