

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2880
ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026

CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY (CARA)

2880. SHRI SANA SATHISH BABU:
SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:
SMT. REKHA SHARMA
SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) the number of children successfully adopted through Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) during Financial Year 2025-26, the State-wise details thereof;
- (b) the number of specialized adoption agencies strengthened or newly registered during the said period;
- (c) the measures taken to reduce the average time taken to complete the adoption processes; and
- (d) the further steps proposed to expand awareness and access to adoption services?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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), the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 and the Adoption Regulations, 2022 for adoption through the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).

The District Magistrate has been empowered to issue Adoption Orders as per Section 58(3) and Section 61 of the JJ Act, 2015 read with Regulation 36 of Adoption Regulations, 2022. As per Schedule XIV of the Adoption Regulations 2022, timelines have been defined for each stakeholder.

The waiting period of the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) depends on the availability of children who are declared legally free for adoption by Child Welfare Committee (CWC). It also depends on the choice of the PAPs to adopt from the age group preferred.

In order to reduce delays and to maintain transparency, CARA has digitized end-to-end process through the digital platform of Adoption Module under Mission Vatsalya portal and regular monitoring and follow-ups is done with the State Governments and UT Administrations including all stakeholders to expedite the process, as per the Schedule XIV of the Adoption Regulation, 2022 which has stipulated timeline for authorities and agencies working in adoption.

The Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya' in all States and Union Territories 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 for 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. The Scheme also supports the Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) registered under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, where adoptable children of below six years of age are provided residential care.

States and UTs have been advised to establish at least one Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA) in each district in accordance with Sections 65 and 66 of the JJ Act, 2015, read with Adoption Regulations, 2022 (Regulations 3 & 5). 795 SAAs have been approved under Mission Vatsalya Scheme for all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations as on 29.07.2026. All SAAs are mandatorily onboarded onto the integrated CARINGS-Mission Vatsalya system, enabling end-to-end digital processing of adoption cases including referral, matching, and documentation. Compliance is monitored through real-time dashboards at Central and State levels, and through periodic review meetings.

The nationwide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities as well as localized outreach programmes to promote adoption and foster care are conducted under Mission Vatsalya. CARA also undertakes awareness and outreach activities across the country to create awareness and promote legal adoption including workshops, seminars and orientation sessions for stakeholders. Awareness regarding legal adoption procedures and the importance of child adoption through print, electronic and social media platforms, etc is also undertaken regularly by CARA.

State and UT wise detail of children adopted through CARA in the country during the last financial year 2025-26 is at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2880 FOR ANSWER ON 12.08.2026 BY SHRI SANA SATHISH BABU, SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI, SMT. REKHA SHARMA, SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA AND DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI REGARDING CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY (CARA)

STATE AND UT WISE DETAIL OF CHILDREN ADOPTED THROUGH CARA IN THE COUNTRY DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26.

S. No.	State	2025-26
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	11
2	Andhra Pradesh	140
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5
4	Assam	186
5	Bihar	125
6	Chandigarh	18
7	Chhattisgarh	114
8	Delhi	109
9	Goa	25
10	Gujarat	547
11	Haryana	68
12	Himachal Pradesh	14
13	Jammu and Kashmir	42
14	Jharkhand	60
15	Karnataka	377
16	Kerala	170
17	Ladakh	-
18	Lakshadweep	-
19	Madhya Pradesh	221
20	Maharashtra	792
21	Manipur	4
22	Meghalaya	13
23	Mizoram	78
24	Nagaland	13
25	Odisha	308
26	Puducherry	15
27	Punjab	49
28	Rajasthan	172
29	Sikkim	28
30	Tamil Nadu	501
31	Telangana	307
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	5
33	Tripura	7
34	Uttar Pradesh	231
35	Uttarakhand	30
36	West Bengal	237
