

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1481
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2023

PM CARES FOR CHILDREN

1481. DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether only 4,345 applications out of total 9042 registered on PM CARES for Children portal, have been approved by the District Magistrates;
- (b) if so, the criterion on which the remaining applications have been rejected or not approved;
- (c) whether the follow-up action and regular review is being done for implementation of the above scheme so that the welfare of the targeted children may be ensured; and
- (d) the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : As per the guidelines of PM CARES for Children Scheme, all children are eligible to avail the benefits of the scheme, who have lost :

- i. both parents or
- ii. surviving parent or
- iii. legal guardian/adoptive parents/single adoptive parent due to COVID-19 pandemic, starting from 11.03.2020 the date on which WHO has declared and characterised COVID-19 as pandemic, shall be entitled to benefits under the scheme and
- iv. child should not have completed 18 years of age on the date of death of parents.

A total of 9042 applications were registered on PM CARES for Children Portal, out of which 4345 children were found eligible under the guidelines and have been provided benefits under the Scheme.

(c) & (d) : Yes Sir. The Ministry regularly follows up with the State/ UT Governments so as to ensure implementation of the Scheme. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) (as amended in 2021) has empowered the Child Welfare Committee to decide on matters relating to children in need of care and protection including children covered under PM CARES for Children Scheme for their best interest. Section 27 of JJ Act, 2015 provides the State Government to

constitute one or more Child Welfare Committees for every district, for exercising the powers and to discharge the duties in relation to children in need of care and protection under the Act.

The District Magistrates are authorized to monitor the PM CARES for Children scheme. They also act as guardians of the children for the purpose of implementation of the Scheme. The major roles of the District Magistrates are to (i) identify, register and verify the children with the assistance of Child Welfare Committees and District Child Welfare Units, (ii) identify the account of the children, (iii) open the accounts, (iv) transfer the funds to the children account, (v) update the profile of the children on the portal, (vi) interact with the children at least once in a year, (vii) review the education and health parameters of the children (viii) organize supplementary education and career counselling facility to the children and (ix) provide benefits to the children under existing schemes of the Government, as per eligibility.
