

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3913
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2023

ADOPTION PROCESS

3913. SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:

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

- the total number of children eligible for adoption and total number of those adopted in 2021 and 2022;
- the strict rules made to monitor and regulate the legal adoption process for orphan children;
- whether because of the stringent adoption process in the country, there is a long waiting period for adoption of orphans, abandoned and surrendered children living in child care institutions and if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps being taken by the Government to bring new policies for ease of adoption?

ANSWER

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

(a) : As per information received from Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), a statutory body of Ministry of Women and Child Development, the details of total number of children eligible for adoption and total number of those adopted in 2021-22 and 2022-23 (as on 20.03.2023) are as under :

2021-2022

Total Number of children eligible for adoption	Total Number of children placed in adoption
2916	3405*

*The figures related to children placed in adoption also include children declared legally free for adoption in the previous year.

2022-2023 (as on 20.03.2023)

Total Number of children eligible for adoption	Total Number of children placed in adoption
3176	3277*

*The figures related to children placed in adoption also include children declared legally free for adoption in the previous year.

(b) : The Government through its recent amendments in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (notified on 09.08.2021), the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 (notified on 01.09.2022) and the Adoption Regulations 2022 (notified on 23.09.2023) has brought qualitative reforms to monitor and regulate adoption process for Orphan, Abandoned and Surrendered (OAS) children.

(c) : The long waiting period of the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) can be attributed to the fact that there are more waiting parents in comparison to a lesser number of children available for adoption. However, the children do not have to wait in the institutions, as there is an online referral system enabling placement of children in adoption expeditiously.

(d) : The amendments made in the Adoption Regulations, 2022 inter-alia include (i) District Magistrate to issue Adoption order; (ii) Chief Medical Officer to determine the health status of the child; (iii) Classification of Special needs redrafted as per Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and Part E of Medical Examination Report; (iv) State Government to setup a Governing body with Secretary of the State Government as its Chairperson and Director of the Department as Chief Executive Officer and Member Secretary along with a Nodal Officer at the level of Deputy Director; (v) Age eligibility of PAPs redefined to ensure younger PAPs for younger children; (vi) For adoption purpose, Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) PAPs have been made at par with Resident Indian (RI)/ Non-Resident Indian (NRI) PAPs; (vii) 7-day adoption effort launched by CARA for Resident Indian/NRI/OCI before child becomes available for Inter-Country adoption; (viii) PAPs with more than two children do not qualify to get referral for a normal child (this criteria is relaxed for adopting hard to place or special needs children); (ix) State based referral priority introduced; (x) Indian Diplomatic Mission (IDM) to take up the remaining post adoption follow ups for the Indian adoptive parents relocating to a foreign country; (xi) Timeline has been stipulated for authorities and agencies at each level to curtail delay; (xii) Counselling stipulated at each level to enhance preparedness of prospective adoptive parents and the older children.
