

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1248**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

**ADOPTION OF ORPHANS**

†1248.SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recorded the number of orphans in the country over the last three years, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of orphans who have been adopted during the said period, State-wise and gender-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the significant gap between prospective parents and adoptable children in the country, if so, the reasons for this significant gap and lengthy waiting period;
- (d) whether the Government has recorded the number of official and unofficial Child Care Institutions in the country along with number of orphans therein, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken cognizance of human trafficking of orphaned children and if so, the number of such crimes recorded during the last three years, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) (as amended in 2021) 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. Adoption in the country is undertaken through the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (HAMA), 1956 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (JJ Act), 2015. The HAMA, 1956 is administered by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

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.

Under the JJ Act, 2015 (Sections 27-30), the Child Welfare Committees have been empowered to take decisions with regard to the children in need of care and protection including orphans, keeping their best interest in mind. They are also mandated to monitor the functioning of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs). Similarly, the Juvenile Justice Boards are empowered to take decisions regarding the welfare of children in conflict with law (Sections 04-09). 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) Amendment Model Rules, 2022 on 01.09.2022 and Adoption Regulations, 2022 on 23.09.2022.

The Adoption Regulations, 2022 lays down time limits for action by various authorities like District Magistrates to issue adoption orders within 60 days; time lines at various stages 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. A child can now be adopted by the foster family after 2 years 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 to promote adoption. Further, as per Rule-44 of JJ Model Rules (as amended in 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; shall be 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. Post notification of Adoption Regulations, 2022 on 23rd September 2022, the adoption order pendency has come down to 106 from the earlier pendency (before the date of notification) of 997. However, there is no delay reported by the States/UTs regarding approving adoption of orphan children.

The waiting period of the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) depends on the availability of children who are declared legally free for adoption by CWC. It also depends on the choice of the PAPs to adopt from a particular State and also the age group preferred. While there is a long queue to adopt a normal young child upto six years of age, there is no waiting period for the PAPs who desire to adopt a child having special needs and a child from immediate placement category (mostly older children). Further, the waiting time is relevant for the PAPs only, as the child does not wait for the family.

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.

The number of children (Orphan, Abandoned, Surrendered and Relative/Step) adopted during the last three years:

Year	In-Country			Inter-Country			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2020-21	1286	1856	3142	183	234	417	1469	2090	3559
2021-22	1293	1698	2991	155	259	414	1448	1957	3405
2022-23	1286	1724	3010	187	244	431	1473	1968	3441

SOURCE: CARINGS

State/UT-wise details are placed at **Annexure-I**.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya' (erstwhile Child Protection Services Scheme), through the State/ UT Governments on cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments for delivering services for children in difficult circumstances which include institutional care and non-institutional care services. The Government is committed to provide security net of statutory and service delivery structures to the children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. 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. Support under non-institutional care is provided by way of sponsorship, foster care and after care to children in need of care and protection. The Mission aims to Support and sustain Children in difficult circumstances; develop context-based solutions for holistic development of children from varied backgrounds; provide scope for encouraging innovative solutions and to cement convergent action.

State-wise total number of beneficiaries in the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) supported under Mission Vatsalya Scheme during the last three years is at **Annexure-II**. State-wise total number of children supported under Non-Institutional Care of Mission Vatsalya Scheme during the last three years is at **Annexure-III**. The State-wise number of CCIs supported under Mission Vatsalya Scheme across the country is at **Annexure-IV**.

(e) As per the Crime in India Report of the year 2020, 2021 and 2022 published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), State-wise details of cases of human trafficking of children, i.e., a person below the age of 18 years is at **Annexure-V**.

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**ANNEXURE-II**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1248 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2024 REGARDING "ADOPTION OF ORPHANS"**

STATE-WISE TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES IN THE CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTED UNDER MISSION VATSALYA SCHEME DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	3012	3069	1504
2	Arunachal Pradesh	195	147	206
3	Assam	1624	1378	1380
4	Bihar	1844	2372	2088
5	Chhattisgarh	2169	2167	1974
6	Goa	798	685	526
7	Gujarat	1946	1299	1651
8	Haryana	2017	1786	1239
9	Himachal Pradesh	1264	1147	805
10	Jammu and Kashmir	759	579	817
11	Jharkhand	1767	1537	1219
12	Karnataka	4303	3974	3182
13	Kerala	591	1380	697
14	Madhya Pradesh	2976	2982	2292
15	Maharashtra	3716	3468	3654
16	Manipur	1966	1980	2121
17	Meghalaya	975	915	972
18	Mizoram	1018	776	914
19	Nagaland	770	597	493
20	Orissa	7392	7077	4153
21	Punjab	681	685	607
22	Rajasthan	5130	3670	2560
23	Sikkim	519	534	526
24	Tamil Nadu	13819	13877	7785
25	Tripura	832	875	829
26	Uttar Pradesh	4965	4722	3238
27	Uttarakhand	511	457	700
28	West Bengal	5257	6494	6220
29	Telangana	1626	2822	1129
30	Andaman & Nicobar	360	301	308
31	Chandigarh	297	153	202
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	60	5	28
33	Ladakh	0	0	25
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35	Delhi	1500	1835	1206
36	Puducherry	956	373	690
<b>Total</b>		<b>77615</b>	<b>76118</b>	<b>57940</b>

**ANNEXURE-III****ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1248 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2024 REGARDING "ADOPTION OF ORPHANS"**

STATE-WISE TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN SUPPORTED UNDER NON-INSTITUTIONAL CARE OF MISSION VATSALYA SCHEME DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

Sl. No.	States/UTs	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	52	52	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	144	144	9150
3	Arunachal Pradesh	317	318	840
4	Assam	434	434	858
5	Bihar	1646	1646	504
6	Chandigarh	67	67	199
7	Chhattisgarh	1250	1250	288
8	D & N.H and D & Diu	156	156	519
9	Delhi	521	521	980
10	Goa	13	13	27
11	Gujarat	1438	1438	506
12	Haryana	1042	1042	5155
13	Himachal Pradesh	563	563	1347
14	Jammu & Kashmir	980	979	1398
15	Jharkhand	1125	1125	3086
16	Karnataka	1375	1375	3875
17	Kerala	323	323	1133
18	Ladakh	0	0	29
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	2188	2188	2377
21	Maharashtra	1688	1688	9844
22	Manipur	730	729	1120
23	Meghalaya	489	490	1028
24	Mizoram	396	396	591
25	Nagaland	521	521	752
26	Odisha	1375	1375	1772
27	Puducherry	198	198	106
28	Punjab	263	263	612
29	Rajasthan	1438	1438	239
30	Sikkim	188	188	323
31	Tamil Nadu	1521	1521	2975
32	Telangana	1563	1563	6454
33	Tripura	364	365	305
34	Uttar Pradesh	3313	3313	1766
35	Uttarakhand	573	573	847
36	West Bengal	1083	1083	1670
<b>Total</b>		<b>29337</b>	<b>29338</b>	<b>62675</b>

**ANNEXURE-IV****ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1248 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2024 REGARDING "ADOPTION OF ORPHANS"****STATE/UT-WISE TOTAL NUMBER OF THE CCIS UNDER MISSION VATSALYA SCHEME DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS**

S.No	State	Number of CCIs during the year		
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Andhra Pradesh	92	92	84
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6	8	11
3	Assam	67	64	67
4	Bihar	65	80	78
5	Chhattisgarh	87	85	83
6	Goa	24	23	25
7	Gujarat	78	81	78
8	Haryana	52	50	49
9	Himachal Pradesh	36	37	38
10	Jammu and Kashmir	14	16	39
11	Jharkhand	55	50	50
12	Karnataka	153	164	154
13	Kerala	44	41	47
14	Madhya Pradesh	100	103	104
15	Maharashtra	102	107	112
16	Manipur	80	81	86
17	Meghalaya	52	52	54
18	Mizoram	50	49	49
19	Nagaland	44	43	44
20	Orissa	133	130	140
21	Punjab	25	25	27
22	Rajasthan	146	159	156
23	Sikkim	22	22	23
24	Tamil Nadu	229	225	221
25	Tripura	34	33	34
26	Uttar Pradesh	120	104	100
27	Uttarakhand	32	32	33
28	West Bengal	132	137	164
29	Telangana	51	56	62
30	Andaman & Nicobar	11	12	10
31	Chandigarh	8	8	8
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	3	4	4
33	Ladakh	0	0	1
34	Lakshadweep	0	1	1
35	Delhi	40	42	39
36	Puducherry	28	29	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>2215</b>	<b>2245</b>	<b>2305</b>



**ANNEXURE-V****ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1248 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI GAJANAN FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2024 REGARDING "ADOPTION OF ORPHANS"**

STATE-WISE DETAILS OF CASES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN, (A PERSON BELOW THE AGE OF 18 YEARS) FOR THE YEAR 2020, 2021 AND 2022

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	23	58	14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13	3	1
3	Assam	84	215	123
4	Bihar	123	311	613
5	Chhattisgarh	35	43	26
6	Goa	1	0	0
7	Gujarat	65	5	6
8	Haryana	7	21	13
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	4	0
10	Jharkhand	114	146	129
11	Karnataka	2	5	7
12	Kerala	184	219	140
13	Madhya Pradesh	79	87	91
14	Maharashtra	49	52	56
15	Manipur	4	4	0
16	Meghalaya	1	1	0
17	Mizoram	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0
19	Odisha	159	497	353
20	Punjab	65	11	12
21	Rajasthan	815	417	453
22	Sikkim	2	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	24	16	3
24	Telangana	32	222	63
25	Tripura	2	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	61	40	73
27	Uttarakhand	9	9	7
28	West Bengal	53	50	78
29	A & N Islands	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	3	2	0
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	2	0	0
32	Delhi UT	202	437	605
33	Jammu & Kashmir	2	2	10
34	Ladakh	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	5	0	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2222</b>	<b>2877</b>	<b>2878</b>