

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.70
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

REHABILITATION OF ORPHANED GIRL CHILD

70. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

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

- (a) whether a large number of young girl children are orphaned in the country due to unforeseen circumstances, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there are orphanages run by Government/individuals/NGOs and private entities for girl children across the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the schemes of the Government to help orphaned girl children; and
- (e) the details of orphaned girl child beneficiaries, State-wise including Bihar?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) 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.

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. Among others, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021 empowers the District Magistrate to function as the focal point for implementation of JJ Act, 2015 and decide the cases of adoption.

The Adoption Regulations, 2022 inter-alia include empowerment of the District Magistrates to issue adoption orders within 60 days, time lines at various stages of adoption 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 etc., have been laid down. A child can now be adopted by the foster family after 2 years of foster care, 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. 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.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has introduced Mission Vatsalya Scheme by subsuming the erstwhile Child Protection Services Scheme for care, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children in difficult circumstances on predefined cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments. Such children have access to both institutional and non-institutional care as per Individual Care Plan (ICP) as mandated under JJ Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021). CCIs provide/support for boarding & lodging, age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. Mission Vatsalya Scheme fosters family based care through promotion of adoption and non-institutional care services. Similarly under non-institutional care, children staying with their relatives under kinship care are provided Rs. 4000/- per month for their boarding & lodging and other support.

The State-wise total number of CCIs including State of Bihar and number of beneficiaries (Institutional and Non-Institutional) funded under Mission Vatsalya scheme during 2022-23 is at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 70 FOR ANSWER ON 02.02.2024 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY REGARDING REHABILITATION OF ORPHANED GIRL CHILD

S. No.	State	Total CCIs	Number of Beneficiaries under Institutional Care	Number of Beneficiaries under Non-Institutional Care
1	Andhra Pradesh	84	1504	9150
2	Arunachal Pradesh	11	206	840
3	Assam	67	1380	858
4	Bihar	78	2088	504
5	Chhattisgarh	83	1974	288
6	Goa	25	526	27
7	Gujarat	78	1651	506
8	Haryana	49	1239	5155
9	Himachal Pradesh	38	805	1347
10	Jammu and Kashmir	39	817	1398
11	Jharkhand	50	1219	3086
12	Karnataka	154	3182	3875
13	Kerala	47	697	1133
14	Madhya Pradesh	104	2292	2377
15	Maharashtra	112	3654	9844
16	Manipur	86	2121	1120
17	Meghalaya	54	972	1028
18	Mizoram	49	914	591
19	Nagaland	44	493	752
20	Orissa	140	4153	1772
21	Punjab	27	607	612
22	Rajasthan	156	2560	239
23	Sikkim	23	526	323
24	Tamil Nadu	221	7785	2975
25	Tripura	34	829	305
26	Uttar Pradesh	100	3238	1766
27	Uttarakhand	33	700	847
28	West Bengal	164	6220	1670
29	Telangana	62	1129	6454
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10	308	0
31	Chandigarh	8	202	199
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	4	28	519
33	Ladakh	1	25	29
34	Lakshadweep	1	0	0
35	Delhi	39	1206	980
36	Puducherry	30	690	106
	Total	2305	57940	62675
