

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.759
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021

BAL SWARAJ PORTAL

759. SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI DEO

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

- (a) whether thousands of children have been orphaned or lost one parent during the second wave of COVID-19 in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;
- (b) whether Government has created Bal Swaraj Portal to track cases of children who have lost one or both parent due to COVID-19, if so, the details of data collected so far;
- (c) whether illegal adoption of these orphaned children have been reported from different parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has any plan to provide support and financial assistance to such children, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): As per information provided by States/UTs including Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, data of orphan children who have lost their parents to Covid since April 2021 to 28.05.2021, is **Annexed**. The data collected on Bal Swaraj Portal regarding orphan children is not specific to those children who have lost their parents to Covid.

(c). The Ministry had alerted States/UTs to ensure that all the children in need of care and protection are reported to the respective Child Welfare Committee and rehabilitated in accordance with the provisions of the JJ Act, 2015. The States/UTs were requested to sensitise public to safeguard vulnerable children by way of public notice in local language. A note for public information was also uploaded on Ministry's website i.e. www.wcd.nic.in.

(d) & (e): The children in distress situations merit care and protection under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Rules made thereunder. The Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Child Protection Services (CPS) in partnership with the State Governments/UT Administrations for delivering the institutional and non-institutional care as stipulated under the JJ Act. As per the scheme guidelines, maintenance grant of Rs.2000/- per child per month is available for non- institutional care of children in need of care and protection, along with the provision of maintenance grant of Rs.2160/- per child per month for Children living in Child care Institutions.

Hon'ble PM has announced PM CARES for children scheme to support children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme provides support for education and health and will create a corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age. This corpus will be used to give a monthly financial support/ stipend form 18 years of age, for the next 5 years to take care of his or her personal requirements during the period of higher education and on reaching the age of 23 years, he or she will get the corpus amount as one lump-sum for personal and professional use.

The Ministry asked States and UTs to take immediate action for care and protection of children adversely impacted by COVID 19, in accordance with the provisions of the JJ Act 2015 and Rules thereunder, while leveraging the facilities funded under the Child protection Services scheme. The Ministry also issued advisories and guidelines for encouraging COVID appropriate behavior, monitoring of Child Care Institutions and coping strategies during COVID times for mental health support to children and care givers. A responsibility matrix defining role of primary duty holders at all levels from State to Panchayati Raj Institutions was also shared with States/UTs.

Annexure

Annexure to part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.759 for 23.07.2021 raised by Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar Shri Rajveer Singh (Raju Bhaiya) Shri Bhola Singh Dr Sukanta Majumdar Dr Jayanta Kumar Roy regarding "Bal Swaraj Portal".

As per information provided by States/UTs data of orphan children who have lost their parents to Covid since April 2021 to 28.05.2021 is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of orphaned children
1	A&N Island	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	119
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	3
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	16
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu	2
9	Delhi	1
10	Goa	0
11	Gujarat	45
12	Haryana	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	13
14	J&K	8
15	Jharkhand	11
16	Karnataka	09
17	Kerala	09
18	Ladakh	0
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	73
21	Maharashtra	83
22	Manipur	1
23	Meghalaya	1
24	Mizoram	0
25	Nagaland	0
26	Odisha	10
27	Puducherry	2
28	Punjab	20
29	Rajasthan	19
30	Sikkim	0
31	Tamil Nadu	8
32	Telangana	23
33	Tripura	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	158
35	Uttarakhand	8
36	West Bengal	3
	Total	645