

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1038
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2021

CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY

1038. MS. S. JOTHIMANI :

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

- (a) the number of children who lost both or one of their parents due to COVID-19, age-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of affected children adopted without the involvement of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) from March 2020 onwards, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether his Ministry has taken any specific steps to identify and ensure protection of affected children from illegal adoptions by NGOs or individuals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) : The Hon'ble Prime Minister 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 is accessible through an online portal i.e. pmcaresforchildren.in. The applications of such children are uploaded on the portal by the State / UT Governments. As on 02.12.2021, 5491 applications have been uploaded on the portal out of which, 3049 applications have been approved by District Magistrates after due process and 483 applications are pending for approval.

(b) : Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) does not maintain information pertaining to the number of children adopted without the involvement of the CARA.

(c) to (e) : States and UTs have been requested to take immediate action for care and protection of children adversely impacted by COVID 19, in accordance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) 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 behaviour, 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.
