

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1841
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024

CHILDREN ORPHANED DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC

1841. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

- (a) the details of supportive measures taken by the Government for the children orphaned due to COVID pandemic;
- (b) whether measures for free education have been taken for such children, if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such children getting free education, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of children who lost both parents due to COVID pandemic, State-wise;
- (d) the number of children who lost one parent due to COVID along with the supportive measures taken by the Government for such children, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to collaborate with child care institution to foster the children who were abandoned, orphaned or lost a parent due to COVID pandemic; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): The Hon'ble Prime Minister announced PM CARES for Children scheme on 29.05.2021 to support children who lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 pandemic during 11.03.2020 to 05.05.2023. The objective of the Scheme is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of Children in a sustained manner and enable their well being through health

insurance, empower them through education and equip them for self-sufficient existence with financial support till 23 years of age. The scheme is accessible through an online portal i.e. www.pmcaresforchildren.in. Benefits under the Scheme have been given to 4532 eligible children so far. State-wise list of eligible children is at **Annexure-I**.

Further, a pro-rata amount is credited in the post office account of each identified child in such a manner that the corpus for each child becomes Rs.10 lakhs at the time of attaining 18 years of age. Children are entitled to receive monthly stipend between the age of 18 and 23 years, by investing the corpus of Rs.10 lakhs into Monthly Income Scheme of Post Office. They are entitled to receive the amount of Rs.10 lakh on attaining the age of 23 years. Children below the age of 18 years, who are staying with their relatives, receive Rs. 4000/- per month under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme of this Ministry. The children staying in child care institutions are provided boarding and lodging facilities on govt. cost.

Under the scheme, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education is entrusted with the task to ensure that all beneficiaries in the schooling age group are enrolled in schools. In order to facilitate admission of these children, additional seats @ 10 children per Kendriya Vidyalaya subject to maximum of 2 children per class were sanctioned in the Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country and beneficiaries are exempted from payment of fee from Class I to XII. Also, provisions are made for admission in the nearest Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya or Private Schools and given benefits of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

Further, scholarship of Rs.20,000/- are provided to all school going children of class I-XII. Children are also assisted in obtaining education loan for Professional courses / Higher Education in India. All children have been enrolled under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojna (AB PM-JAY) with a health insurance cover of Rs.5 lakh. The coverage of health insurance is provided till they attain the age of 23 years.

Children can also avail the benefits of 'Swanath Scholarship Scheme for Students' which is being implemented by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to study further in AICTE approved Institutions and courses. Under the scheme, Rs.50,000/- per annum is provided to each student for every year of study (i.e. maximum 4 years for first year admitted Degree students and maximum 3 years for Diploma Students) as lump sum amount towards payment of college fee, purchase of computer, stationery, books, equipment, software etc.

(d) to (f): The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) is mandated to monitor the implementation of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)

Act, 2012 and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

NCPCR has devised an online portal Baal Swaraj to do real time monitoring of children and keeping in view of the COVID pandemic, a link called COVID care link on the portal had been developed. All States/UTs were directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Suo Moto WP (C) No. 4 of 2020 to upload the data of children who had become orphans or lost either of the parent to COVID pandemic or otherwise on the Baal Swaraj Portal post March 2020. As per the Baal Swaraj COVIDCARE data, the State/UT-wise number of children who lost one parent due to COVID is at **Annexure -II**. Further, all the children in distressed situations including those affected by COVID-19 pandemic merit care and protection under the provisions of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The Act and Rules made thereunder mandate provision of a safety net of service delivery structures along with institutional and non-institutional care for these children.

The Ministry is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya' (erstwhile Child Protection Services Scheme), through the State/ UT Governments on cost sharing basis for delivering services to children in difficult circumstances which include services of institutional and non-institutional care. 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 state 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.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.1841 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 BY ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH AND SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY REGARDING CHILDREN ORPHANED DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC

Sl. No.	State/UT	Beneficiaries approved by district collectors under PM CARES for Children scheme
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	351
2.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	8
3.	ASSAM	55
4.	BIHAR	82
5.	CHANDIGARH	12
6.	CHHATTISGARH	109
7.	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI & DAMAN & DIU	12
8.	DELHI	153
9.	GOA	6
10.	GUJARAT	227
11.	HARYANA	95
12.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	25
13.	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	18
14.	JHARKHAND	49
15.	KARNATAKA	231
16.	KERALA	119
17.	MADHYA PRADESH	433
18.	MAHARASHTRA	855
19.	MANIPUR	21

20.	MEGHALAYA	14
21.	MIZORAM	14
22.	NAGALAND	14
23.	ODISHA	112
24.	PUDUCHERRY	13
25.	PUNJAB	42
26.	RAJASTHAN	210
27.	TAMIL NADU	426
28.	TELANGANA	257
29.	UTTARAKHAND	44
30.	UTTAR PRADESH	467
31.	WEST BENGAL	58
	Total	4532

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) TO (F) OF THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.1841 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 BY ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH AND SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY REGARDING CHILDREN ORPHANED DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC

Baal Swaraj COVIDCARE data as on 29.07.2024	
State/UT	Single Parent
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	353
Andhra Pradesh	8141
Arunachal Pradesh	375
Assam	1963
Bihar	2089
Chandigarh	169
Chhattisgarh	361
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	327
Delhi	6696
Goa	188
Gujarat	13802
Haryana	3362
Himachal Pradesh	3136
Jammu and kashmir	670
Jharkhand	1523
Karnataka	4899
Kerala	4001
LADAKH	112
Lakshadweep	79
Madhya Pradesh	11413

Maharashtra	27302
Manipur	276
Meghalaya	152
Mizoram	180
Nagaland	142
Odisha	34160
Puducherry	418
Punjab	1407
Rajasthan	6236
Sikkim	52
Tamil Nadu	15395
Telangana	2045
Tripura	85
Uttar Pradesh	19437
Uttrakhand	5181
West Bengal	6544
Total	182671

(As on 29.07.2024)
