

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *484
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS

*484. DR. THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOLKAPPIYAN :
DR. D RAVI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state :

- (a) whether as per National Human Rights Commission Report, 2022, out of estimated three crore orphan and abandoned children only about 2.6 lakh children live in 7000 Children Care Institutions (CCIs) in country leaving a large number in need of institutional care;
- (b) if so, whether any measures are being taken to resolve the issue, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether despite being covered under Juvenile Justice Act, 28% of CCIs are not registered with State Governments and 39.6% of CCIs are not visited by State Inspection Committees on a random basis according to the CAG Report; and
- (d) if so, the details of the measures being taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTs (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.484 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 RAISED BY DR. THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOLKAPPIYAN AND DR. D RAVI KUMAR REGARDING CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS

(a) & (b): National Human Rights Commission has informed that no such report has been published.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) which is the primary legislation for ensuring safety, security, dignity and well-being of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) by catering to their basic needs through care, protection, development, treatment, rehabilitation and social re-integration. It defines standards of care and protection to secure the best interest of the child. The Act envisages statutory structures at State and District levels which include State Child Protection Society, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, District Child Protection Unit and also Child Care Institutions. The primary responsibility of implementation of the JJ Act lies with the respective State/UT Governments.

Under Sections 27-30 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Child Welfare Committees have been empowered to take decisions with regard to the children in need of care and protection, keeping their best interest in mind. They are also mandated to monitor the functioning of the CCIs. Similarly, sections 04-09 of the JJ Act, 2015 empower the Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) to take decisions regarding the welfare of children in conflict with law. The JJ Act, 2015 (Section 109) provides for the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights at national level and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights at State level respectively to monitor the implementation of the Act.

Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya', through the State/ UT Governments on predefined cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments to deliver services for children in difficult circumstances which includes institutional care and non-institutional care services. 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. Under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme, the District Child Protection Unit functions under the overall supervision of District Magistrate to ensure review, monitoring and inspection of the service delivery institutions i.e. Child Care Institutions and the care provided.

The scheme, through Toll-free Child Helpline (1098) also provides for emergency outreach services (24x7) for children in difficult circumstances. It is further integrated

with the Emergency Response Support System-112 (ERSS-112) Helpline of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Women Helpline 181.

The Ministry has issued various guidelines and advisories from time to time for strengthening implementation of Mission Vatsalya by the States/UTs. These include Mission Vatsalya Guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures for Child Helpline & Model Foster Care Guidelines 2024.

The Ministry regularly follows up with the State/ UT Governments so as to ensure the effective implementation of Mission Vatsalya Scheme. The Ministry conducts meetings, trainings and workshops from time to time with the State and UT Governments to strengthen implementation of Mission Vatsalya Scheme at the field level. The State Child Protection Society and District Child Protection Units at the State and District levels provide day to day monitoring of the scheme. The implementation of the scheme lies with the States/ UTs.

(c) & (d): Comptroller & Auditor General of India have informed that no such observations have been made in their report.

Under section 41(1) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015), all institutions whether run by a State Government or by voluntary or non-governmental organisations, for housing children in need of care and protection or children in conflict with law are required to be registered under the JJ Act, 2015. Section 42 of the JJ Act, 2015 also provides for punishment of any person, or persons, in-charge of an institution housing children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law, who fails to comply with the provisions of section 41(1) of the JJ Act, 2015.

The JJ Act, 2015 and Rules made thereunder provide for inspection of Child Care Institutions by State Level Inspection Committee and District Level Inspection Committee. The District Level Inspection Committee is constituted by the District Magistrate with Additional District Magistrate as Chairperson. The District Level Inspection Committee inspects all CCIs in the district and submits the report of the findings to the District Magistrate or the State Government for improvement and development of CCIs in accordance with the provisions of the JJ Act, 2015 and Rules made thereunder. The District Magistrate being the focal point in the district for implementation of the Act, takes follow up action on the report of inspection committees and ensure that corrective measures are taken in a time bound manner. The primary responsibility of implementation of the JJ Act lies with the respective State/UT Governments.
