

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3279
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2026

CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY

3279. SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:
SHRI P C MOHAN:
SHRI BHOJRAJ NAG:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:
SHRI MANISH JAISWAL:
SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA:
SMT. ANITA NAGARSINGH CHOUHAN:
DR. HEMANG JOSHI:
SHRI NABA CHARAN MAJHI:
SHRI NALIN SOREN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any new initiative through the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) to make the adoption process, more transparent, simplified and timebound in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of children adopted through CARA in the country during the last two years, along with the average waiting period for adoption, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs)/strengthen the necessary facilities for the rehabilitation of abandoned and orphaned children in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the estimated timeline in this regard State/UT-wise and constituency-wise;
- (e) the details of the measures taken to reduce the average time taken for completion of adoption process; and
- (f) the details of the steps proposed to expand awareness and outreach services in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (f):. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for the administration of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015), the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 and the Adoption Regulations, 2022 for adoption through the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). 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.

The District Magistrate has been empowered to issue Adoption Orders as per Section 58(3) and Section 61 of the JJ Act, 2015 read with Regulation 36 of Adoption Regulations, 2022. As per Schedule XIV of the Adoption Regulations 2022, timelines have been defined for each stakeholder.

The waiting period of the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) depends on the availability of children who are declared legally free for adoption by CWC. It also depends on the choice of the PAPs to adopt from the age group preferred.

In order to reduce delays and to maintain transparency, CARA has digitized end-to-end process through the digital platform of Adoption Module under Mission Vatsalya portal and regular monitoring and follow-ups is done with the State Governments and UT Administrations including all stakeholders to expedite the process, as per the Schedule XIV of the Adoption Regulation, 2022 which has stipulated timeline for authorities and agencies working in adoption.

The Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya' in all States and Union Territories on predefined cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments to deliver various services for children in difficult circumstances including orphan children. The scheme provides institutional care and non-institutional care. Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the Mission Vatsalya scheme provide, inter-alia, age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. The Scheme also supports the Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) registered under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, where adoptable children of below six years of age are provided residential care.

States and UTs have been advised to establish at least one Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA) in each district in accordance with Sections 65 and 66 of the JJ Act, 2015, read with Adoption Regulations, 2022 (Regulations 3 & 5). 795 SAAs have been approved under Mission Vatsalya Scheme for all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations as on 29.07.2026. All SAAs are mandatorily onboarded onto the integrated CARINGS-Mission Vatsalya system, enabling end-to-end digital processing of adoption cases including referral, matching, and documentation. Compliance is monitored through real-time dashboards at Central and State levels, and through periodic review meetings.

The nationwide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities as well as localized outreach programmes to promote adoption and foster care are conducted under Mission Vatsalya. CARA also undertakes awareness and outreach activities across the country to create awareness and promote legal adoption including workshops, seminars and orientation sessions for stakeholders. Awareness regarding legal adoption procedures and the importance of child adoption through print, electronic and social media platforms, etc is also undertaken regularly by CARA.

States and UTs Administration wise detail of children adopted through CARA in the country during the last two years including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra is at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTs (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUSTION NO. 3279 FOR ANSWER ON 07.08.2026 BY SHRI P P CHAUDHARY, SHRI P C MOHAN, SHRI BHOJRAJ NAG, SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY, SHRI MANISH JAISWAL, SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY, SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR, DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA, SMT. ANITA NAGARSINGH CHOUHAN, DR. HEMANG JOSHI, SHRI NABA CHARAN MAJHI AND SHRI NALIN SOREN REGARDING CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY

STATES AND UTS ADMINISTRATION WISE DETAIL OF CHILDREN ADOPTED THROUGH CARA IN THE COUNTRY DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS INCLUDING RAJASTHAN, MADHYA PRADESH, KARNATAKA AND MAHARASHTRA.

S. No.	State	Adoption Data	
		2024-25	2025-26
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16	11
2	Andhra Pradesh	109	140
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6	5
4	Assam	153	186
5	Bihar	155	125
6	Chandigarh	15	18
7	Chhattisgarh	120	114
8	Delhi	110	109
9	Goa	26	25
10	Gujarat	156	547
11	Haryana	91	68
12	Himachal Pradesh	8	14
13	Jammu and Kashmir	39	42
14	Jharkhand	71	60
15	Karnataka	306	377
16	Kerala	176	170
17	Ladakh	0	0
18	Lakshadweep	0	0

19	Madhya Pradesh	133	221
20	Maharashtra	849	792
21	Manipur	8	4
22	Meghalaya	16	13
23	Mizoram	47	78
24	Nagaland	12	13
25	Odisha	287	308
26	Puducherry	17	15
27	Punjab	109	49
28	Rajasthan	160	172
29	Sikkim	26	28
30	Tamil Nadu	465	501
31	Telangana	267	307
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	7	5
33	Tripura	3	7
34	Uttar Pradesh	205	231
35	Uttarakhand	19	30
36	West Bengal	328	237
