

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1949  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006  
CARE HOUSES FOR ORPHANAGES  
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

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

- (a) whether Care Homes and Orphanages keep children up to the age of 18 only as referred in Times of India dated September 10, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether orphan boys and girls reaching the age of 18 are not able to complete education enough to enable them get employment and for factors such as ban on under aged employment;
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to provide for retention of orphans for some more years; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to rehabilitate these children?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) As per Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a child is defined as a person who has not completed 18 years of age. Accordingly, the children homes which may be established and maintained by the State Governments/UT Administrations under the Act, either by themselves, or in association with the voluntary organizations, for children in need of care and protection keep these children upto the age of 18 years.

(c) The Children Homes are supposed to be functioning as comprehensive child care centres and are expected to provide facilities which include education to all children according to their age and ability, either inside the home or outside. The children homes are also required to facilitate vocational training to children under the guidance of trained instructors.

The ban on employment under the Child Labour [Prohibition and Regulation] Act, 1986 as well as the National Child Labour Project [NCLP] scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment is with the intention of providing better scope for education to these children. There may, however, be children who have not completed education at the age of 18 years.

(d)&(e) Section 44 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for establishment or recognition of After Care Organisations for children between the age of 17 to 18 years who may stay in these organizations till the age of 20 years. These organizations are expected to enable the children to prepare themselves for an honest, industrious and useful life after they leave children homes. Government of India has been impressing upon the State Governments the need for full implementation of the Act.