

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:709
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
CHILDREN HOMES
Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that thousands of children are languishing for years in State run children homes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such cases reported during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any directions to the States in this regard, and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (e): The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 [JJ Act], being administered by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, is the primary law for adjudication and disposal of matters related to children in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law. Whereas the act accords priority to family based care for rehabilitation of such children, and thus provides for non-institutional care through adoption, sponsorship and foster-care, it also provides for institutional care in Homes set up under the Act, for long term rehabilitation of such children who cannot be placed in families for some reason. The JJ Act and the Rules thereunder provide for the well-being and rehabilitation of the children residing in them, including inter-alia, shelter, food, education, medical attention, vocational training, counselling etc. so that such children can ultimately reintegrate into the mainstream society.

To improve the quality of services in the Homes, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is providing financial assistance under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) to State Governments/UT Administrations for setting up, upgradation, and maintenance of various types of Homes, including Children's Homes, either by themselves or through voluntary organisations. The State/UT-wise details of various types of Homes, including Children's Homes, provided financial assistance under ICPS alongwith beneficiaries therein is annexed.

To promote deinstitutionalisation of children without parental care, the Ministry is facilitating adoption of such children by loving families through Specialised Adoption Agencies set up under the JJ Act and provided financial assistance under ICPS. The JJ Act also requires all children's homes to develop linkages with adoption agencies for adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children.

For such children in the Homes who have been placed there due to vulnerable situation of the family, family strengthening measures are being undertaken through the sponsorship component of ICPS, so that the children can be restored to their families and their well-being could be ensured through follow-up. The Ministry has formulated guidelines for deinstitutionalisation of children through Sponsorship support under ICPS and has circulated these to all State Governments/UT Administrations for implementation.