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Title : Need to provide civil rights to Orphans and change in definition of the word 'Orphan'.

SHRI RAJAIAH SIRICILLA (WARANGAL): I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House regarding the dire need to provide civil rights to Orphans in the country.

As the House is aware that there are different definitions of the term Orphan. Social orphans come from families where the child cannot be cared for because of incarceration, extreme poverty, physical abuse and abandonment. Various official reports showing that the orphans in India are about 6 to 10 percentage of the population of country. As per the recent survey UNICEF and SOS Children Village, about 20 million children, about 4% of their population in India and higher than people living in Delhi are orphans. Out of them 0.3% are parentless and the rest are abandoned and roam in the streets. Orphans lack legal and social identity and have little or no access to social support structures and protective mechanisms in India. Entry into primary schools and colleges, applying for a job and even applying for a SIM card is often impossible for orphaned people due to their lack of identity. There is no identity for the Orphans. They were excluded from the policies and from the special programs and schemes. There is no special law or act for Orphans. They are at high risk in the society. They need special Policy for the people in need of social equality / recognition" at Central and State levels.

I, therefore, request the Government, that there should be Civil Rights of Orphans like Right to reservation in education and employment with proper legislations for orphans by changing their definition to bring up them in the society equally with others in consultation with State Governments including Andhra Pradesh in the very first year of 12th Five Year Plan.