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Title: Need to frame a policy for the welfare of orphan children in the country.

SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA (WARANGAL): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government regarding the dire need to provide civil rights to Orphans in the country. As the Government 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 show that the orphans in India constitute 6 to 10 per cent of the population. As per the recent survey of UNICEF and SOS Children Village, about 20 million children, about 4% of their population in India and more 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 programmes and schemes. There is no special law or act for orphans. They are at high risk in the society.. I have also raised this issue earlier but nothing happened so far which amounts to denying them civil rights. I, therefore, request the Government, through the Chair, that there should be Civil Rights of Orphans like Right to reservation in education and employment and also legislations be enacted to properly define them in consultation with State Governments including Andhra Pradesh without any further delay.