

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3813

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

INCLUSION OF ORPHAN CHILDREN IN CENSUS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether millions of orphan children who lived on roads and public places are not being counted in the population/census of the country because of non-availability of their birth certificates.
- (b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to include such orphans in the census;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the existing birth and death law to make it more effective and mandatory;
- (e) whether several States are not fully complying with the directions issued under the existing law of birth/death; and
- (f) if so, the penal provisions proposed in the amended law?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH)

(a): In Population Census 2011, all persons residing in the country including houseless population were enumerated irrespective of availability of their birth certificates. This covered all persons, including Orphan children, who did not live in buildings or Census Houses but lived in the open or roadside, pavements, in hume-pipes, under fly-overs and staircases, or in the open, in places of worship, mandaps, railway platforms, etc.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): The reporting and registration of births and deaths is mandatory under the existing provisions of the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to amend the existing Birth and Death Act.

However, directions/guidelines are issued and Special Campaigns are carried out from time to time for more effective implementation of the RBD Act.

(e) : All States and Union Territories (UTs) are complying with the directions issued under the existing Act. The provisions of Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969 have been implemented in all States / UTs through the State Rules framed under the Act by the respective States/UTs.

(f) : In case of non-reporting, non-registration, false reporting etc., the penalties are already prescribed under Section 23 of the existing Act. The Power to compound offences is also prescribed under Section 24 of the Act.