

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.726
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021

ORPHANED CHILDREN DUE TO COVID-19

726. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:
SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:
SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:
SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:
SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:
PROF. SOUGATA RAY:
DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

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

- (a) whether a large number of children were orphaned or abandoned due to COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated number of children orphaned, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan;
- (c) whether the Government has made any assessment of number of children who lost either father or mother or both to COVID-19 since 1st April 2021 and if so, the details thereof in all the three categories;
- (d) whether the Government has launched/ planning to launch schemes for the rehabilitation, welfare and social security of said children;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the targets fixed in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the States in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the other steps being taken for protection and welfare of such children including their educational needs?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (f): As per information provided by States/UTs data of orphan children who have lost their parents to Covid since April 2021 to 28.05.2021 is **Annexed**.

The children in distress situations merit care and protection under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The Act and Rules made thereunder mandate a safety net of service delivery structures along with institutional and non-institutional care for these children. The Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Child Protection Services (CPS) in partnership with the State Governments/UT Administrations for delivering the institutional and non-institutional care as stipulated under the JJ Act. As per the scheme guidelines, maintenance grant of Rs.2000/- per child per month is available for non-institutional care of children in need of care and protection, along with the provision of maintenance grant of Rs.2160/- per child per month for Children living in Child care Institutions.

Hon'ble PM has announced PM CARES for children scheme to support children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme provides support for education and health and will create a corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age. This corpus will be used to give a monthly financial support/ stipend from 18 years of age, for the next 5 years to take care of his or her personal requirements during the period of higher education and on reaching the age of 23 years, he or she will get the corpus amount as one lump-sum for personal and professional use.

The Ministry has asked States and UTs to take immediate action for care and protection of children adversely impacted by COVID 19, in accordance with the provisions of the JJ Act 2015 and Rules thereunder, while leveraging the facilities funded under the Child protection Services scheme. The Ministry has also issued advisories and guidelines for encouraging COVID appropriate behavior, monitoring of Child Care Institutions and coping strategies during COVID times for mental health support to children and care givers. Guideline providing a responsibility matrix defining the role of primary duty holders has also been shared with the States/UTs.

The States and UTs have been jointly requested by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education to ensure continuity of education of the children who have lost their parents in COVID-19 pandemic, while accommodating them under the various schemes being run by DoSEL.

Annexure

Annexure to part (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.726 for 23.07.2021 raised by Shri K Muraleedharan Shri Mohammed Faizal P P Shrimati Jaskaur Meena Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab Shri Brijendra Singh Shri Ramesh Bidhuri Shri Kumbakudi Sudhakaran Shri Abdul Khaleque Prof Sougata Ray Dr Kalanidhi Veeraswamy regarding "Orphaned Children due to Covid-19.

As per information provided by States/UTs data of orphan children who have lost their parents to Covid since April 2021 to 28.05.2021 is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of orphan children
1	A&N Island	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	119
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	3
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	16
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu	2
9	Delhi	1
10	Goa	0
11	Gujarat	45
12	Haryana	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	13
14	J&K	8
15	Jharkhand	11
16	Karnataka	09
17	Kerala	09
18	Ladakh	0
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	73
21	Maharashtra	83
22	Manipur	1
23	Meghalaya	1
24	Mizoram	0
25	Nagaland	0
26	Odisha	10
27	Puducherry	2
28	Punjab	20
29	Rajasthan	19
30	Sikkim	0
31	Tamil Nadu	8
32	Telangana	23
33	Tripura	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	158
35	Uttarakhand	8
36	West Bengal	3
	Total	645