

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1908
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024

MISSION VATSALYA'S PROGRESS

1908. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) ☐ the mechanisms that are in place to monitor Mission Vatsalya's progress at the grassroots level and ensure accountability;
- (b) ☐ whether Government has collaborated with international organizations for technical assistance or funding and what were the outcomes;
- (c) ☐ the steps taken to raise awareness about Mission Vatsalya in rural and underserved areas to increase participation;
- (d) ☐ the measures that are planned for the long-term sustainability of benefits for children aging out of the program; and
- (e) ☐ the manner in which technology used for registration, tracking and welfare management under Mission Vatsalya?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a): Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya' (erstwhile Child Protection Services Scheme), through the State/ UT Governments on pre-defined cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments to deliver services for children in difficult circumstances which include both institutional care and non-institutional care services. The scheme provides services to the children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law for their rehabilitation and social re-integration into the mainstream of the society. The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the Mission Vatsalya scheme support, *inter-alia*, age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. Support under non-institutional care is provided by way of sponsorship, foster care and after care to children in need of care and protection.

Under Sections 27-30 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021), the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) have been empowered to take decisions with regard to the children in need of care and protection, keeping their best interest in mind. They are also mandated to monitor the functioning of the CCIs. Similarly, the Juvenile Justice Boards are empowered to take decisions for the welfare of children in conflict with law (Sections 04-09). The JJ Act, 2015 (Section 109) provides for the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) at national level and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) at State level respectively to monitor the implementation of the Act.

Inspection Committees are mandated under section 54 of JJ Act, 2015 to visit such facilities housing children. District Magistrate is the nodal authority in the district for children in need of care and protection and to take action on the findings of the report submitted by the Inspection Committees. The Ministry of Women and Child Development engages from time to time with the States/ UTs for monitoring of field level activities.

(b): Funds are not provided by any international organisation under Mission Vatsalya Scheme. However, the Ministry engages with different organisations from time to time, as per the requirement under the Missions/ schemes implemented by the Ministry.

(c): Mission Vatsalya scheme is implemented in all States/ UTs including rural and urban areas to deliver various services for children in difficult circumstances. Online training and capacity building programmes are conducted for the stakeholders for awareness and better implementation of the scheme. It also provides support to organize programmes at Block, District & State levels for different categories of functionaries and Awareness generation through Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and media campaign including printing and dissemination of IEC materials.

The Ministry has also organised National and zonal level workshops on Mission Vatsalya Scheme for multi stakeholders in different States/UTs for effective implementation of the Scheme.

(d): The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, provides, for After Care, for a child leaving the Child Care Institution on completion of 18 years of age and for providing financial support. This is to facilitate child's re-integration into the mainstream of the society.

(e): The Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed Mission Vatsalya Portal which is a Digital Platform for all stakeholders & children in difficult circumstances which include missing, orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children. Training and capacity building programmes are conducted for the stakeholders to help them use the Mission Vatsalya portal.
