

# CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY

Annual Report 2008-09



Ministry of Women & Child Development



# Central Adoption Resource Authority

12.1 **Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)** was set up on 20th June, 1990. It was registered as an autonomous body under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 on 18.03.1999. It was designated as Central Authority by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on 17.7.2003 for the implementation of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children & Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993). Subsequently, the name of the Central Adoption Resource Agency has been changed to Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) w.e.f. 17th July 2007. On the recommendation of State Governments, CARA gives recognition to agencies to facilitate inter- country adoptions. It also gives enlistment to foreign adoption agencies, as recognized under the appropriate laws of their own country, and recommended by Indian Missions abroad. So far, CARA has recognized 73 Indian Placement Agencies in the country and 91 Enlisted Foreign Adoption Agencies, excluding Government Departments in 24 countries for Inter- country adoption.

12.2 The overall goal of CARA has been to promote domestic adoption and regulate inter-country adoption as provided under Guidelines of Government of India. CARA also works as Programme Division for implementing Sishu Greh Scheme and grant-in-aid to Adoption Coordinating Agencies (ACAs).

## Management Committee

12.3 CARA consists of both official and non-official members and takes important decisions relating to programme matters. Day-to-day matters are looked after by the Member Secretary of CARA as Chief Executive Officer.

## Staff

12.4 CARA has 08 officers and 19 other staff members.

## Mandate

12.5 CARA has the mandate to promote domestic adoption and regulate inter-country adoption in the country.

## Functions

12.6 The function of the CARA are :

- To act as the Central Authority with regard to adoption matters as envisaged under the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter country Adoption, 1993.
- To coordinate with the State Governments for promoting in-country adoption and all other related adoption matters including

- regulation and monitoring of Recognised Indian Placement Agencies (RIPAs) and ACAs.
- To recognize/renew the Indian Placement Agencies as accredited bodies for processing inter-country adoption cases and to regulate, inspect and monitor their functioning.
- To enlist/renew enlistment of foreign adoption agencies as authorized bodies to sponsor applications for inter country Adoption of Indian children.
- To act as a clearing house of information in regard to abandoned/relinquished/orphaned children available for both inter-country and in-country adoption;
- To issue No-objection Certificate in each case of inter-country adoption;
- To frame and implement Guidelines for inter-country adoption;
- To issue Guidelines towards common policies, procedures & practices on in-country adoption;
- To promote and popularize the concept of adoption through publicity and awareness activities;
- To orient and sensitize the NGOs, Government Officials, Medical Professionals, Judicial & Police Officers about adoption through trainings and workshops.

## 12.7 Budget of CARA

### Non-Plan

Financial Year	Budget Estimate ( Rs. in Crores)	Revised Estimate ( Rs. in Crores)	Actual Expenditure ( Rs. in Crores)
2004-2005	1.40	1.30	1.19
2005-2006	1.35	1.35	1.26
2006-2007	1.50	1.50	1.39
2007-2008	1.50	1.50	1.29
2008-2009	2.00	2.00	1.37 (as on 31/03/2009)

### Plan

Financial Year	Budget Estimate ( Rs. in Crores)	Revised Estimate ( Rs. in Crores)	Actual Expenditure ( Rs. in Crores)
2007-2008	2.00	2.00	00.77
2008-2009	*2.00	1.55	1.01 (as on 31/03/2009)

\* Inclusive of Rs. 20 lakhs for NE region.

## 12.8 Associated Agencies

- i. **Recognised Indian Placement Agencies (RIPAs)** : At present, there are 73 adoption agencies recognized by CARA for placing children in inter-country adoption.
- ii. **Sishu Grehs**: There are 76 units of Sishu grehs (run by NGOs and Government run Homes) getting grant under Sishu Greh Scheme to promote domestic adoption.
- iii. **Enlisted Foreign Adoption Agencies (EFAAs)**: There are 91 foreign adoption agencies enlisted with CARA for processing applications of the prospective foreign adoptive parents for adoption of Indian children. In addition, 46 Government Departments from

24 countries are also involved in the process.

- iv. **Adoption Coordinating Agencies (ACAs)**: At present, there are 18 ACAs recognized by CARA for promoting in-country adoptions, maintaining a state level list of children available for adoption and prospective parents willing to adopt, carrying out publicity & awareness on adoption, and issuing clearances for inter-country adoptions.

### Data on Adoption

12.9 Number of children placed in adoption through Recognized Indian Placement Agencies / Sishu Grehs during the last five years are as follows:

Year (Jan. to Dec.)	In-country Adoption			Inter-country adoption by NRIs/ PIOs/Foreigners No. of NOCs given for	Total (4+5)	
	1	2	3			4
	RIPAs	Shishu Grehs	Total (2+3)			
2004	1707	587	2294	1021	3315	
2005	1541	743	2284	867	3151	
2006	1536	873	2409	852	3261	
2007	1510	984	2494	770	3264	
2008	1419	*750	2169	821	2990	

\* Data likely to increase as information from many agencies is still awaited. The above data do not include in-country adoption figure of other licensed adoption agencies recognized by State Governments.

### 2008-09 (as on 31.03.2009)

Recognitions of New Indian Adoption Placement Agencies (RIPAs) : 07

Enlistment of new Foreign Adoption Agencies (EFAAa) : 04

### Publicity & Awareness

12.10 Some of the major initiatives taken in the year 2008-09 include the following: -

Advertisements have been released on the following:



*Smt. Renuka Chowdhury Minister' of State (IC), MWCD in get-together with children from various orphanages, the Chairperson, CARA is at her left.*

1. Beware of illegal adoptions.
2. Advertisement on Adoption Coordinating Agencies.
3. Advertisement on registration of Children Homes and recognition of Special Adoption Agencies.
4. Advertisement for invitation of applications for recognition as Adoption Placement Agencies.
5. Advertisement of list of Placement Agencies and Shishu Grehs in leading newspapers

12.11 CARA participated in Vatsalya Mela organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development in Pragati Maidan during 14-27 November 2008.

### **Audio-visual media**

Audio – Video spots for DD-News & AIR have been produced by DAVP for CARA.

### **Publications**

1. Adoption under Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2000 amended in 2006
2. Adoption- A life long Bond.

### **Training / Development Activities**

12.12 CARA has initiated Orientation Programmes under “National Initiative for Child Adoption”. The Initiative has already completed 7 phases since 2000-2001. The training/ orientation programmes are being organized for various target groups, such as, Placement

Agencies, ACAs, Scrutiny Agencies, Sishu Grehs, Judicial Officers, Members of CWC, Medical Professionals and concerned State Government officials and other stakeholders. During the year 2008-09 10 State Orientation/ sensitization programmes and one National level programme, 4 zonal programmes on online database with the help of NIC and one North East regional Programme have been completed.

### 12.13 Various initiatives taken by CARA

- Revision of the Existing Adoption Guidelines
- Revision of Recruitment Rules of CARA
- Microfilming of old NOC files (1995 to 2007)
- Recognition to new Adoption Placement Agencies
- Induction programme for social workers of new recognized agencies
- Central Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS)

### Sishu Greh scheme

12.14 The “Scheme of Assistance to Homes for Children (Sishu Greh) to Promote In-country Adoption” has been in operation since 1992-93 with the following objectives:

- I. to regulate adoption within the country to ensure minimum standards in care of children;
- II. to provide support for institutional care within the country for care and protection of infants and children up to 0-6 years of age who are either abandoned or orphaned/ destitute and their rehabilitation through in-country adoption; and
- III. to promote in-country adoption.

12.15 The Scheme was revised in 1997-98 with a view to rationalize its funding / financial pattern. It was further revised w.e.f. 1st April,2001 with the objective of bringing State Govt.-run-institutions within its ambit so that all institutionalized children who are legally free for adoption can find families within the country.

12.16 The status of grant-in-aid, during the last 5 years, is as follows:

Financial Year	Budget Estimate (Rs.in Crores)	Revised Estimate (Rs.in Crores)	Actual Expenditure (Rs.in Crores)
2004-2005	2.65	-	2.23 (39 NGOs, 3 State Govts., 53 units)
2005-2006	5.00	2.00 (+0.27 lacs from NE budget)	2.24 (37 NGOs, 2 State Govts., 49 units)
2006-07	2.5	3.00 (Including NE)	2.59 (34 NGOs & 5 State Govts.& 61 units, 10 children per unit)
2007-08	3.00	3.00 (Including NE)	2.45(32 NGOs and 4 State Govts-total 59 units)
2008-2009	*3.00	2.80 (Including NE)	1.88(26 NGOs, 4 State Govts. And 46 Units) as on 31/03/09

- Inclusive of Rs. 30 lakhs for NE region.

12.17 States having Shishu Greh Projects: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal.

### **Grant in Aid to Adoption Coordinating Agencies:**

12.18 Financial support is being given to the Adoption Coordinating Agencies (earlier called Voluntary Coordinating Agencies) under the General Grant-in-aid Scheme of the Ministry for the promotion of in-country adoption. The status of the grant over the years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Budget Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)</b>	<b>Revised Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs)</b>
2004-2005	40.00	40.00	22.03 (09 VCAs)
2005-2006	40.00	40.00	43.28 (13 VCAs)
2006-2007	45.00	45.00	33.81(12 ACAs)
2007-2008	50.00	50.00	16.98(9 ACAs)
2008-2009	50.00	50.00	40.41(15 ACAs) as on 31/03/09