

**Central Adoption Resource Authority**  
Ministry of Women & Child Development  
Government of India  
R.K. Puram, New Delhi

**Minutes for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 11:30AM in the Conference Room of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), West Block-8, 1st Floor, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.**

1. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), chaired by Shri Rabindra Panwar, Secretary, MWCD (Chairperson of the Steering Committee of CARA), was held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 11:30AM in the Conference Room of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), West Block-8, 1st Floor, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.
2. The Chairperson and Members as under were present in the meeting (copy of the Attendance Sheet is placed at **Annexure I**).

**Chairperson**

- (a) Shri Rabindra Panwar, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India – Chairperson (Ex-officio).

**Members**

- (b) Ms. Aastha Saxena Khatwani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – Member (Ex-officio).
- (c) Shri Sukh Lal Meena, Dy. Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi [*Representing Shri Ali Raza Rizvi, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – Member (Ex-officio)*].
- (d) Ms. Archana Rana Seth, Joint Director (ICPS), Deptt of WCD, Chhattisgarh [*Representing Secretary (Chairperson SARA), Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Chhattisgarh, {Representing State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), Chhattisgarh}*] - Member.
- (e) Shri Pushpendra Singh, Deputy Director, Saharanpur Division, UP alongwith Shri Rakesh Kumar Saxena, Superintendent, Rajkiya Bal Greh, Rampur [*Representing Rajkiya Bal Greh, Rampur, UP – Government-run Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA)*] – Member.

- (f) Dr. (Ms.) Meena Radhakrishna, B-2/36 Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 [Adoptive Parent] – Member.
- (g) Ms. Priya Srinivasan, 7039, B-10, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 [Adoptee] – Member.
- (h) Ms. Aparna Bhat, A-11, LGF, Rear Side, Neeti Bagh, New Delhi-110049 [Advocate] – Member.
- (i) Shri Deepak Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, CARA – Member Secretary (Ex-officio).

**Special Invitee(s)**

- (j) Shri Harvinder Singh Baweja, Sr. Technical Director, National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Women & Child Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (k) Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Director, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (l) Shri Sanjay Barshilia, Director (Programme), Central Adoption Resource Authority, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.
- (m) Dr. Jagannath Pati, Jt Director (Policy & Admn), Central Adoption Resource Authority, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.
- (n) Shri Paras Sarwaiya, Under Secretary (CW-II), Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (o) Shri Chandkiran Chhoker, Sr. System Analyst, National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Women & Child Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

3. At the outset, Chairperson, Steering Committee welcomed all the Members of the Committee and asked Member Secretary & CEO, CARA to start the proceedings of the 23rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of CARA.

4. At the outset, a presentation was given by Member Secretary CARA about adoption figures and availability of children in Homes as per CARINGS and delays at the level of CWCs and the Courts. Further, the committee was apprised of the regular action of seeking intervention from the States taken by CARA to resolve the issues related to delays. CEO CARA informed the procedure for categorising the child as Normal or Special Needs based on the review of MER prepared by the SAAs. In case of doubt, opinion of the medical

expert from AIIMS Delhi is taken. He further informed that if a child is not adopted by In-country PAPs after being available for 15 referrals after being declared legally free for adoption, the child is made available for Immediate Placement. Children are available for Inter-country adoption by OCIs & foreigners only after they couldn't be placed with Indian PAPs within 60 days of the child being declared legally free for adoption.

5. NIC officials along with the CARINGS team demonstrated the new online MER Module and presented the details of the process of registration of doctors and preparation of the MER along with uploading of the mandatory test reports & clinical assessment of the child. This would finally enable the recommended medical categorisation of the children automatically into the 14 sub categories as was recommended earlier by an expert committee chaired by Dr Sheffali Gulati from AIIMS Delhi. NIC further informed that the security audit of the MER Module has been done and it is ready for launch. Further, CEO CARA added that once implemented, segregated data could be generated on the type of special needs a child is having which would help early placement of such children. It was also advised that Medical Assessment module may be split to incorporate authentication of vaccination at the level of SAA. JS (ASK) advised CARA to issue a circular with guidelines for SARA for approving the doctors.

6. During the course of presentation, the following discussions & decisions were made by the Committee:

- (a) *The Committee expressed concern over the fact that in a few cases normal children are being classified as having special needs in order for placing them in Inter-country adoption, maybe because placement in Inter-country adoption yielded higher adoption fees to the SAAs. Proper assessment process for the categorisation of the children by Government doctors must be instituted by the States & UTs and CARA may issue instructions to that effect. MoHFW may be approached to engage CGHS doctors wherever possible. In case of non-availability, State Govt. Doctors could be considered.*
- (b) *CEO CARA briefed the Committee about the automatic check which would result from the implementation of the online MER (Medical Examination Report) module on CARINGS. However, it's deployment has to be gradual to enable all SAA being geared up and trained to use it. He suggested that it may be operationalised by 31 Mar 2020, which was agreed in principle. Before deployment, it's simplification with certain details to be pre-filled by the SAA was recommended. Also, the module should be made bi-lingual.*
- (c) *CEO CARA informed about the requirement of proper post-adoption follow-up module on CARINGS for In-country adoption. The requirement of the same was already discussed with NIC officials and CARINGS team. It was essential for developing and making the module operational at the earliest,*

as it will enable proper tracking of the disruption/dissolution cases on timely basis, where such children are not stuck up in the system and the PAPs returning are prevented from getting multiple referrals subsequently. NIC confirmed that they have prepared a workflow for the module, which may be approved by CARA and thereafter they would take four weeks for developing the module. The Committee suggested that the module be prepared by end of Dec 2019 & put up before the Steering Committee in its next meeting.

- (d) CEO CARA informed that there are 04 tele-counsellors to attend to the queries/grievances of public on the toll free number and about 50 to 60 calls per day are being handled by each of the tele-counsellor. These tele-counsellors are experienced however this service needs to be expanded. CEO CARA further intimated that Steering Committee had earlier approved outsourcing the toll free services for which CARA had published an EoI. However, the tender for the same hasn't been issued. The Committee advised that the proposal be sent to the Ministry immediately.
- (e) As far as training and development initiatives are concerned, Secretary WCD agreed in principle that while CARA should be engaged in TOT and preparation of training modules, the States may be asked to organise such programmes.
- (f) Management of Special Needs children in the agencies was also discussed and it was decided that this may be further discussed with the Department handling disabilities/Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

**Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decision on the Agenda Items of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Steering Committee held on 26/06/2019.**

7. The ATR as under on the decision of the last Steering Committee meeting was given to the members by CEO CARA:-

Decision of Steering Committee	Action Taken Report
<p><b>Item No. 1: Review the performance of the Members of Advisory Committee of CARA.</b></p> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p><i>It was decided that all those members whose performance has been found negligible during the last one year, as</i></p>	<p>CEO CARA informed that the Ministry had decided to relieve all advisors of the Advisory Committee of CARA w.e.f.22/07/2019 vide OM No. CW-II-26/9/2016-CW-II dated 22/07/2019 (<b>Annexure-I of the Agenda</b> at pages 9-11). Accordingly, CARA had issued order vide Order No. CARA-MP019/3/2016-MP-IV dated</p>

<p>brought out in <b>Appendix 'C' of the Agenda</b>, may be relieved of their responsibilities. Further, the continuance of other members will be decided based on the assessment of their performance to be submitted by CARA.</p>	<p>24/07/2019 (<b>Annexure-II of the Agenda</b> at page 12).</p>
<p><b>Item No. 2: Approval of Accounts for the financial year 2018-2019.</b></p> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p><i>The Committee advised to get the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2018-19 signed by the Chartered Accountant, from whom the same has been audited internally by CARA, and the signed Statement of Account be circulated to all the Members of the Steering Committee. The approval of the members through circulation (via email) be obtained and attached with the minutes for approval of the Chairperson.</i></p>	<p>CEO CARA informed that the Accounts for the year 2018-2019 have been audited by the Director General of Audit and Central Expenditure for audit. The Audit Report has already been signed and will be received shortly.</p> <p>The Committee enquired if there was any major observation. CEO CARA informed that the one of the observations which is being repeated, is regarding investment of the fund available for leave salary &amp; gratuity of the regular staff of CARA. The proposal for its investment as per the Govt norms has been forwarded to the Ministry for approval, as per earlier decision of the Steering Committee.</p>

### Agenda Items and Decisions

#### Programme Matters:

#### **Item No. 1: Approval of RE for FY 2019-2020 and BE for FY 2020-2021.**

8. CEO CARA informed that as per Rule 15.1 of Rules & Regulations of CARA-2018, in the month of September every year, the Member Secretary & CEO shall send the Budget estimates for the ensuing financial year before the Steering Committee. Accordingly, the proposal for RE 2019-20 and BE for 2020-21 as proposed by the Ministry is as tabulated below:-

(Rs. in Crore)

BE 2019-20	Proposed RE 2019-20	Proposed BE 2020-21
<b>9.00</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>17.00</b>

9. He informed the justification for proposing the increase in budget, as under, which is in line with last year's proposal and is to be approved by the Steering Committee:-

- (a) MWCD has approved creation of 18 new posts for CARA vide letter No. CW-II-26/22/2015-O/o US(CW-II) dated 15/11/2018 with concurrence of Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure vide Diary No. 870590/2018/E.Coord.I dated 08/11/2018. Out of which, post of Director (01) and Assistant Director (02) have already been filled on deputation. CEO CARA informed that they have again advertised for the remaining posts and expect that all remaining posts will be filled by December, 2019. Additional budget for Rs. 1.20 Crore is required under salary head during the year 2019-20. On asking about the Contractual staff, CEO CARA informed that out of the total 52 posts approved, they have not been able to fill all the posts. However, after the advertisement published, scrutiny of applications has been done for 5 posts of Junior Professionals, 2 posts of Executive Assistants and 2 posts of DEO, for which screening test would be held on 23 Nov 2019.
- (b) CARA has already moved a proposal for shifting its office in the rented building which is under consideration of the Ministry. Rent of Rs. 1.00 crore for next 03 months has been provisioned in the RE for 2019-20 and Rs. 3.75 Crore in the BE for 2020-21.
- (c) As per Section 69, Sub-Section 5 of the JJ Act, 2015, CARA shall function from its headquarter and through its regional offices as may be set up as per its functional necessity. Therefore, an amount of Rs.2.50 crore has been provisioned in BE for 2020-21 for setting up regional offices in three regions: (i) Eastern Region at Calcutta (ii) Southern Region at Chennai and (iii) Western Region at Mumbai during the next two years.

10. Steering Committee may please approve the proposed RE for FY 2019-20 and BE for FY 2020-21 [Appendix-B of the Agenda at pages 13-14].

11. **Decision:** *The Committee approved the proposed RE for FY 2019-2020 and BE for FY 2020-2021 as the amounts were confirmed by Shri Sukh Lal Meena, Dy. Secretary (Finance) as having been incorporated in the Ministry's proposed budget. Further, the Committee advised to strengthen CARA Headquarters first, before planning to establish Regional Offices.*

**Item No. 2: Draft (English Version) Annual Report of CARA for the year 2018-2019 [excluding Audited Report of DGA (CE)] has been prepared. A copy of the draft was placed at Appendix-C of the Agenda at pages 15-83.**

12. As per Section 71, Sub-Section 1 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, the Authority shall submit an Annual Report to the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed and the Central Government shall cause the Annual Report of Authority to be laid before each House of Parliament. [Section 71, Sub-Section 2 of J.J. Act, 2015 refer]. Further, as per Section 69, Sub-Section 3(b) of the J.J. Act 2015, the Steering Committee of CARA shall have to approve the Annual Budget, Annual Accounts, and Audit Reports, as well as the Action Plan and Annual Report of Authority. The DGA (CE), New Delhi has already audited the aforesaid Annual Accounts of CARA and the Audited Report is awaited. The same will be incorporated in the aforesaid Annual Report after receiving the same from the DGA(CE), New Delhi.

13. The Annual Report of CARA for the year 2018-2019 was placed before the Steering Committee for its approval.

14. **Decision:** *The Committee decided to approve the Annual Report for the year 2018-19 in principle, subject to correction/suggestion by the members, if any, to be forwarded to CARA by 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019. CARA was further advised to send the Annual Report to the Ministry before the end of Nov 2019, so that it may be placed in the ongoing session of the Parliament in the first week of December 2019. CW-II MWCD was advised to put up review note to be sent to Parliament by the Ministry, along with the Annual Report.*

**Item No. 3: Approval for extension of CGHS facility to the existing & retired regular CARA officials.**

15. CEO CARA informed that Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003. CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated/ recognised adoption agencies.

16. The Steering Committee of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has adopted "the Rules & Regulations of CARA, 2018" during its 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 with the approval of the Government of India under Section 69, Sub-Section 3(c) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 [**Appendix-D of the Agenda** at pages 84-88]].

17. CEO CARA also informed that as per Rule 37.4 of the Rules & Regulations of CARA, 2018, an employee shall be entitled to such medical

benefits as are admissible under the medical rules in force from time to time to the employees of Central Govt. [**Appendix-E of the Agenda** at pages 89-91]).

18. The CGHS facility is available & applicable for existing & retired officials of Central Govt. Accordingly, the same may be applicable to the existing & retired regular officials of CARA.

19. CEO CARA informed that CARA presently has a total of 16 employees from regular cadre eligible for the same. Secretary WCD observed that similar proposal for NCPCR wasn't approved. CEO CARA informed that there isn't any employee as permanent cadre for NCPCR & NCW and all posts are filled through deputation. If Steering Committee agrees in-principle, action for provisioning of CGHS facility to the existing & retired regular employees of CARA can be initiated.

20. **Decision:** *The Committee advised that the proposal for provisioning of CGHS facility for the regular employees of CARA be forwarded to the Ministry.*

**Item No. 4: Approval of the Training for the lawyers associated with SAAs.**

21. CEO CARA informed that CARA has a mandate as per Regulation 37(7) of AR 2017 to provide support and guidance to all its stakeholders through trainings, seminars, workshops etc. CARA has already initiated 03 days Residential Training Programme for Social Workers of SAAs & DCPUs. As of now CARA has already conducted 08 training workshops at New Delhi, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Guntur (Andhra Pradesh) for Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, Bengaluru (Karnataka), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) and Kolkata (West Bengal) for West Bengal & Sikkim, Patna (Bihar) and Bhubaneswar (Odisha) for Odisha & Jharkhand covering 11 States & UTs. Details of the same were placed at **Appendix-F of the Agenda** at pages 92-93.

22. On similar lines, it is proposed that a sub-committee may be constituted for training the lawyers of SAAs in different parts of the country keeping in view the fact that the lawyers associated with Adoption Agencies do not have adequate knowledge on JJ Act, 2015 & Adoption Regulations, 2017. It is proposed to organise regional/state level programmes to cover all the agencies handling adoption cases. This would result in improvement in the cases pending in the courts.

23. It was also proposed to constitute a panel of 'resource persons' having representations from different regions who have got expertise on the subject and have good track record in getting adoption orders expeditiously and who have adequate understanding on adoption procedure.

24. Secretary enquired if SARAs/SAAs will actually require services of lawyers for obtaining Adoption Orders from the court of District Magistrates, as



has been proposed in amendment in the JJ Act. Member (Legal) informed that it is useful to have lawyers for preparing the application for obtaining Adoption Orders. CEO CARA suggested that lawyers being given orientation in adoption matters may be given a certificate to that effect and States would then have a panel of trained counsels for taking up adoption cases. Member (Legal) suggested having a proper process for selection of such lawyers and younger lawyers may be trained as well. Member (UP State) also suggested considering seeking panel of lawyers from the District Courts. JS (ASK) suggested that the lawyers should actually be oriented to understand the social object of the JJ Act 2015 and they should be guided on the procedural aspect in the Adoption cases.

25. **Decision:** *The Committee decided that CARA can prepare training modules and necessary material for such training with the help of a sub-committee and then direct the SARAs of the States & UTs to carry out the training & orientation of legal professionals in a phased manner. In this regard, State Judicial Academies or Institutions as recommended by the respective States/UTs may be involved for conducting the training.*

**Item No. 5: Status of fines levied to the SAAs during the year 2018-2019 by the Authority.**

26. CEO CARA informed that fines were imposed on a number of Specialised Adoption Agencies for various irregularities during the year 2018-2019. Details of the same were placed at **Appendix-G of the Agenda** at page 94.

27. **Decision:** *Further action may be initiated against the defaulting agencies failing to deposit fines as provided in the JJ Act 2015 and the Adoption Regulations-2017.*

**Item No. 6: Information of inspection of Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) during the period from September to December, 2019.**

28. CEO CARA informed that one Inspection Schedule from September to December, 2019 has been prepared for regular and contractual officers/ staff to inspect around 63 Specialised Adoption Agencies located in different parts of the Country. The inspecting teams shall visit and carry out inspection of the SAAs, keeping in view their functions as envisaged in Sections 50 & 65 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Regulation 29 of the Adoption Regulations, 2017. The list has been prepared based on the functioning of the SAAs assessed by the In-country Division of CARA. As on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019, inspection of 23 SAAs have been carried out by CARA during the period from 01/09/2019 to 31/10/2019 and inspection of residual SAAs would be done during the months of November and December 2019 as per Inspection Schedule. CEO CARA further informed that inspection of about 50 SAAs would be done per quarter.

29. **Decision:** *This was noted by the Committee.*

**Item No. 7: Report Received from Dr. Meena Radhakrishna, Member of the Steering Committee regarding her observation on disruption matters related to older children.**

30. CEO CARA informed that in the 20<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting held on 21 Feb 2019, the issue was raised regarding high rate of disruption of older children placed in In-country Adoption. It was decided that Dr. Meena Radhakrishna, member of the Steering Committee would submit a report in this regard after analysing the issue. She has forwarded a Report on Study of Disruption & Dissolutions relating to Older Children Adoptions including from Immediate Placement (IP) category, which was placed at **Appendix-H of the Agenda** at pages 95-106.

31. Dr. Meena Radhakrishna informed that she has prepared the report based on examining the physical files of the affected children aged five years & above, available with CARA for the period 2017-18, and has observed that out of a total of 85 total disruption cases, 56 cases related to the child who were over 5 years of age i.e. 66% of all disruptions were of older children. She also informed that 13 disruptions (7)/dissolutions (6) happened in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for children above 5 years of age. She informed that we do not have disruption/dissolution data/information on CARINGS/website. She recommended that children should not be given to those PAPs from whom children are coming back as they are not serious PAPs. Further, she informed that even the psychologists have not dealt with adoption issues and only Mental Health Professionals can understand it. It needs professionals support to cater for counselling the PAPs, adoptive families and grown up adoptees. CEO CARA informed that it cannot be done by social workers and we need to enable the States to create counselling resource at least upto District level. He suggested that a Sub-Committee of experts in this field may be formed to prepare the training materials and training modules and then they may train the master trainers at the State/Regional levels under the aegis of SARAs. SARAs can then be directed to create a resource available at the District level.

32. There was a concern shared by Dr Radhakrishna that older children are returned by the PAPs and they continue to get further referrals, since there are no waiting for adopting older children. Such a system must be discouraged and PAPs found unsuitable must not be allowed to keep trying out adoptions resulting in disruptions. CEO CARA informed proper disruption data isn't available on CARINGS as the agencies don't update it on timely basis. The same would be asked from the States for further analysis.

33. Member (Chhattisgarh Govt.) suggested increasing the period of pre-adoption foster care in cases of older children. Member (Legal) suggested that

there should be a provision of recording & reporting disruption in case a child is abandoned by PAPs in the State other than that from where the child was in institutional care. CEO CARA informed that there is a circular on the disruption process and the reporting will be enabled on deployment of the post adoption follow up module on CARINGS.

34. Director (Prog) CARA also suggested that PAPs should be encouraged and facilitated to interact with the children in cases of older children adoption. Proper counselling is a must for successful adoption in such cases.

35. Secretary, WCD asked as to what action is taken against the PAPs who are found responsible for disruption. CEO CARA informed that such PAPs are blacklisted.

36. **Decision:** *The Committee decided that this being an important issue, a letter be issued to the States & UTs by the Ministry at the level of JS giving out advisory and instructions related to disruption. The issue may be further monitored by CARA wherein information & data related to disruptions/dissolutions should be collected from the States within two months. CARA should also issue advisory for the Adoption Committee of the SAAs for proper assessment of the PAPs during matching. The format of the deed signed by the PAPs while taking a child in pre adoption foster care may be amended by incorporating suitable declaration from the PAPs. The In-country post adoption follow-up module should be made operational by CARA as early as possible. For review of the Immediate Placement module from where large number of older children are getting placed with families and also resulting in disruption, data may be analysed with respect to placement of children under six years of age and over six years of age.*

**Item No. 8: Proposal received from Dr. Meena Radhakrishna, Member of the Steering Committee to conduct ToT for Mental Health Professional/Counsellor.**

37. Dr. Meena Radhakrishan has forwarded a proposal for conducting one ToT on Mental Health Professionals who can be engaged as resource persons at State/Regional Level. The proposal submitted by Dr. Meena Radhakrishan was placed at **Appendix-I** of the Agenda at pages 107-108, which was discussed to enable that there are trained counsellors at State and Regional levels who can be further utilized in counselling Children, Parents and also for taking sessions in state orientation programmes both organised by CARA as well as by States. A panel of such trained counsellors may be approved by CARA and the list may be uploaded on its website. This panel may remain valid for one year and the same may be updated from time to time by CARA.

38. **Decision:** *The Committee advised to make a plan and do it systematically as it has been done in the case of 3 days residential training*

being conducted for social workers. Further, it was decided to have a sub-committee in collaboration with Govt institution like AIIMS or NIMHANS. It may be started on pilot basis and the ToT may be conducted in six Regions, starting with Region where the requirement is more.

**Item No. 9: Information about activities planned by CARA during adoption awareness month (November, 2019).**

39. In the International Adoption Month in November, 2019, Committee was apprised of the undermentioned activities conducted/planned by CARA:-

- (a) Get Together of Adoptive Parents and PAPs at Delhi on 09/11/2019 & Chandigarh on 14/11/2019;
- (b) Painting and Slogan Writing Competition for the Children of SAAs & CCIs in Delhi on 21/11/2019;
- (c) Staff to visit SAAs in Delhi to interact with the children;
- (d) Dissemination through Hoardings at Prominent Airports;
- (e) Dissemination through Inside Panels of Various Trains;
- (f) Installation of Two Digital Display Boards at CARA for enabling information to the visitors;
- (g) Release of CARA's Souvenirs.

40. **Decision:** Any advertisement to be disseminated, & the dissemination plan through BOC with the approval of Ad Approval Cell, should be only with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister.

**Item No. 10 (Additional Agenda): Clarification regarding adoption fee in case of Siblings/Twins placed in In-country Adoption by Specialised Adoption Agencies.**

41. CARA has been receiving queries on the fees to be collected in case of In-country adoption of Siblings/Twins. Vide OM. No. IP03/20/2016/CARA dated 23rd March, 2017 (Annexure-A) & 5th April, 2017, Circulars were issued regarding "adoption fee" to be received by Specialised Adoption Agencies from the prospective adoptive parents with the approval of Steering Committee of CARA. However, there was no clarity on the fees to be collected in case of In-country adoption of Siblings/Twins.

42. A letter from District Judge-02 and Additional Session Judge, Pune on giving clarification regarding adoption fee to be charged in case of

pending for quite some time, a letter was issued to District Judge about the particular case of adoption of female minor twins.

43. It is proposed to issue one Circular to all concerned that the adoption fees of Rs. 40,000/- comprises of various expenses incurred by the Specialised Adoption Agency for the adoption process like medical expenses for preparation of Medical Examination Report, Legal Expenses, expenditure on documentation like Birth Certificate, etc. Hence, except for the expenditure of Rs. 8000/- prescribed for legal fees (20% of the total fee), the balance fee of Rs. 32000/- may be applicable for each sibling.

44. **Decision:** *As per the existing norms, in cases of Inter-country adoptions, the adoption fees in cases of siblings have been prescribed as US\$ 1000 per additional child in cases of siblings, apart from the US\$ 5000 for single child. Hence, in cases of In-country adoptions also fees per additional child in cases of adoption of siblings may be prescribed as 20% of the adoption fees of Rs 40,000/-.*

**Item No.11 (Additional Agenda): Decision taken by Tis Hazari Court, Delhi.**

45. Vide order dated 23.09.2019, Mr. Girish Kathpalia, the Ld. District & Session Judge, in a particular adoption case, directed that outstation cases must be filed in the court where prospective Adoptive Parents reside and further, the Court has directed CARA to join the proceedings.

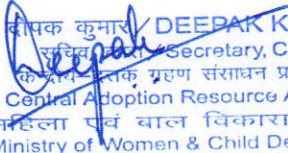
46. In this regard, CARA has submitted that if the staff from the Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA) travels to various District/States of the country, where the children would be placed, for filing the petition and for court hearing which may be going on simultaneously in various courts, then the adoption procedure of the children who are still in pipeline will get further delayed and hence it would be detrimental to the interest of the children. Further, if the jurisdiction of filing the petition is changed from the place where agency is located to the place where the PAPs are residing, it may not result in overall welfare of children. The social worker of Agencies are assigned with numerous responsibilities i.e. preparing Child Study Report, conducting Counselling for children and PAPs at various stages, conducting Home Study Report of PAPs, preparing documentation and facilitating PAPs at different levels etc. Further, in many courts the cases take numerous hearing where they even scrutinise the functioning of the DCPU & CWC involved and changing jurisdiction to where the PAPs reside may further make the court process difficult. The existing adoption procedure as provided in the JJ Act, 2015 and Adoption Regulation, 2017, has been formulated after holding consultations with all stakeholders. However, the Hon'ble Court is assured that after receiving directions from the Hon'ble Court, and the matter would be taken up in the Steering Committee of CARA, for reviewing and taking a decision on

incorporating the changes in the Adoption Regulations, if required. A copy of the affidavit filed in the District Court was circulated to the members.

47. **Decision:** *It was decided that the present practice is child friendly and it has been decided after holding consultations with all stakeholders and should be continued. The Hon'ble court may be apprised of accordingly.*

48. *The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.*



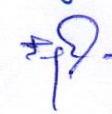

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दीपक कुमार / DEEPAK KUMAR  
सुचिव / Secretary, CARA  
केन्द्रीय अल्प वय संसाधन प्राधिकरण  
Central Adoption Resource Authority  
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Women & Child Development  
भारत सरकार / Government of India  
पश्चिमी खण्ड-8, विंग-2, द्वितीय तल, आर.के. पुरम  
West Block-8, Wing-2, 2nd Floor, R.K. Puram  
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi-110066

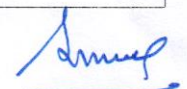
**Central Adoption Resource Authority**  
Ministry of Women & Child Development,  
Government of India,  
West Block – 8, Wing – 2, 2nd Floor,  
R.K. Puram, New Delhi – 110066

**Twenty-Third (23rd) Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 (Friday) at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Hall of CARA at West Block - 8, Wing - 4, 1st Floor, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.**

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

S.No.	Name & Designation	Position	Signature
1.	<b>Sh. Rabindra Panwar</b> Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.	Chairperson (Ex-officio)	
2.	<b>Sh. Ali Raza Rizvi</b> Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.	Member (Ex-officio)	
3.	<b>Ms. Aastha Saxena Khatwani</b> Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	Member (Ex-officio)	
4.	<b>Sh. Siddhartha Komal Singh Pardeshi</b> Secretary (Chairperson, SARA), Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Chhattisgarh, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh. <i>[Representing State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), Chhattisgarh]</i>	Member	 <i>Anchana Rana Seth</i> <i>Joint Director (ICPS)</i> <i>Dept. of WCD Chhattisgarh</i>
5.	<del>Sh. Manoj Kumar Roy</del> <b>Pushpendra Singh</b> <del>Director, Deputy Director, Saharanpur Division,</del> Department of Women Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. <i>[Representing Rajkiya Bal Greh, Rampur, UP - Government run Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA)]</i>	Member	 

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*Rakesh Kumar Sojani Sub. Rana*6- **SUKH LAL MEENA, Dy Sec (Fin)**

6.	<b>Dr. (Ms.) Prajakta Kulkarni</b> Founder / Director, Snehankur Adoption Centre, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. <i>[Representing NGO run Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA)]</i>	Member	
7.	<b>Dr. (Ms.) Meena Radhakrishna</b> Flat No. - 535, ANTARA, Purukul Road, Guniyal Gaon, P.O. - Sinola, Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248003. <i>[Adoptive Parent]</i>	Member	<i>Meena Radhakrishna</i>
8.	<b>Ms. Priya Srinivasan</b> 7039, B-10, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070 <i>[Adoptee]</i>	Member	<i>Priya</i>
9.	<b>Ms. Aparna Bhat</b> A-11, LGF, Rear Side, Neeti Bagh, New Delhi - 110049 <i>[Advocate]</i>	Member	<i>Aparna</i>
10.	<b>Sh. Deepak Kumar</b> Member Secretary & CEO, Central Adoption Resource Authority West Block - 8, 1st & 2nd Floor, R.K. Puram, New Delhi	Member Secretary (Ex-officio)	<i>Deepak</i>

**SPECIAL INVITEE(S) :**

S.No.	Name & Designation	Position	Signature
1.	<b>Sh. Ajay Tirkey</b> Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	---	
2.	<b>Sh. Harvinder Singh Baweja</b> Sr. Technical Director National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Women & Child Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	--- STD, NIC	<i>Harvinder</i>
3.	<b>Sh. Manoj Kumar Singh</b> Director, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	---	<i>Manoj</i>
4.	<i>Para Saranya, VS</i>		<i>Para Saranya</i>
5.	<i>Chandrasen Chitole</i> Sr. System Analyst	Sr-System Analyst	<i>Chandrasen</i>
6.	<i>NIC</i> <i>Sanjay Barstika</i>	Dir(Pgm)	<i>Sanjay</i>