Central Adoption Resource Authority to open 8 new child adoption centres
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PATNA: While the whole world is talking about 'save the girl child', parents in Bihar are actually saving them from social cruelty by giving them to adoption centres. There are three legal specialized child adoption agencies in the state where abandoned girl children are higher in numbers than boys.

According to data available with the state adoption resource authority (SARA), the local nodal agency of the Union ministry for women and child development, for child adoption, boys are always in high demand for adoption while the girl child, especially with disabilities, are neglected.

Twenty-four children, mostly boys, were legally adopted in 2012 through SARA while one girl child was adopted in February this year. Brajesh Kumar, programme manager, SARA, said, "According to the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) guidelines, each adoption process should be completed within two months after the 'home study' process. But due to the court procedures, there are couples who are struggling to adopt a child for the last four years."

With the growing demand of adoptions, the Union ministry for women and child development, on the recommendation of the state government, is set to open eight new adoption agencies at Patna, Gaya, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Munger, Saharsa, Purnia and Saran. Each centre will get Rs13.86 lakh from the central government.

SARA receives 10 to 15 applications every month for adoption but 80 to 90 per cent of the willing parents apply for male child. An official of SARA said, "Generally, married couples who have biological girl child apply to adopt a baby boy. Divorcees and widows also come for adoption but no unmarried woman has opted for legal adoption yet."

The children staying with the specialized adoption agencies get regular counselling from their respective agencies. Unmarried mothers frequently come to such agencies to give away their children.

Economically poor parents also come to the agencies with their child to provide them a better future. "We also welcome the children of women staying at short stay homes or prison inmates who are unable to provide a healthy future to their children," said the programme manager.

He said, "Indian parents are generally not willing to adopt children with disabilities. There are foreign couples who adopt such children but they have to apply through RIPA (Recognized Indian Placement Agency). CARA officials are also considering opening a RIPA unit in Bihar soon. But for now, we try to contact SARA units in other states looking for scope of adoption for children with disabilities in the state."