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Mission Vatsalya: Funds Released to States and the Missing Count of Children

Child protection / centrally sponsored schemes | News context: Lok Sabha answer on Mission Vatsalya, 24 July 2026 | Published: 18 October 2026

Background and Context

Mission Vatsalya is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development that provides institutional and non-institutional care and emergency outreach services for children in difficult circumstances. This article rests only on one Lok Sabha answer and its state-wise annexure.

Why in the News

On 24 July 2026 (Friday), Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur answered Lok Sabha unstarred question 1005 ("Mission Vatsalya Scheme") from Neeraj Maurya, Lalji Verma and Babu Singh Kushwaha. The question asked: (a) the scheme's main objective and state-wise funds released, especially in some districts of Uttar Pradesh and

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Committees; (d) the number of children receiving financial assistance; (e) the financial rehabilitation assistance given to those leaving child care institutions after turning 18.

Core Concept: "Funds Released" and "Children Assisted" Are Separate Counts

Per the answer: "State and UT-wise details of funds released including State of Uttar Pradesh under Mission Vatsalya scheme during the financial year 2025-26 are at Annexure." About children only this was said: "Total 15,000 children have been supported for Non-Institutional care for the State of Uttar Pradesh under Mission Vatsalya Scheme, as on 31.03.2026. District-wise and Parliamentary Constituency-wise data is not maintained centrally." The annexure's amounts are for the year 2025-26 and the children's count is the position as on 31.03.2026; the answer does not say which components the amounts went to, so we built no per-child ratio from amounts and children.

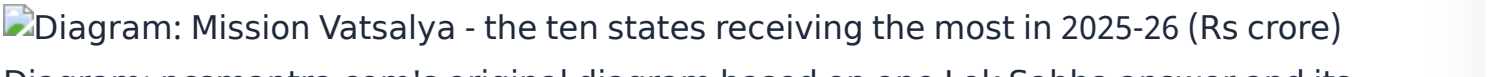


Diagram: pcsmantra.com's original diagram based on one Lok Sabha answer and its annexure

Key Facts and Figures

Nature of the scheme (answer)	Implemented through state governments and UTs on a "pre-defined cost sharing basis"; institutional care, non-institutional care and emergency outreach services. Non-institutional components: Sponsorship, Foster Care and After Care.
Monitoring (answer)	At state level: the State Child Protection Society, State Adoption Resource Agency and State Child Welfare and Protection Committee; at district level: the District Child Protection Unit, District Child Welfare and Protection Committee and Child Welfare Committee. The District Magistrate is the nodal authority in the district. NCPCR and the state commissions (SCPCR) monitor under Section 109 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

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	Daman & Diu 2.89, Goa 3.07, Ladakh 3.20. The annexure has no total row.
Sum and concentration (our calculation)	The 36 rows sum to Rs 1,033.25 crore (no printed total). The first three states (Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra) hold about 26.6% and the first five about 37.6%; Uttar Pradesh alone about 10.4%. This is the distribution of released funds, not a comparison with the number of children or need.
Uttar Pradesh's children (answer)	15,000 children in non-institutional care as on 31.03.2026; the separate split of sponsorship, foster care and after care is not in the answer.

Checking the Figures: What Matches and What Does Not

What matches (our calculation, from text and page image): the annexure's 36 rows are complete with serial numbers 1 to 36, matched against the page image, and they sum to Rs 1,033.25 crore. The annexure has no total row, so this sum is ours, not an official total.

What does not match or is unclear: some states' amounts are very small (Gujarat 2.49, Goa 3.07, Lakshadweep 0.09) while Meghalaya 42.75, Manipur 34.36 and Mizoram 33.65 are printed. The answer does not state the reason and we assumed none; the conditions for releasing funds and the Centre-state share ratio are not in the answer.

Asked vs given: (c)-(d) asked for the number of children identified, sponsored and assisted in the Aonla constituency and the Bareilly, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Ambedkar Nagar and Jaunpur districts; the answer gives 15,000 children for the whole of Uttar Pradesh and says district-wise and parliamentary constituency-wise data is not maintained centrally. (e) asked for financial rehabilitation assistance to those leaving institutions after 18; the answer counts "After Care" as a component but gives no number or amount.

The period: the released amounts are for financial year 2025-26 and the children's count is as on 31.03.2026; neither is a figure for the first quarter of 2026-27.

Significance: Fund Figures and Reach-to-Children

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The limit of the Centre's data: per the answer, district-wise and parliamentary constituency-wise data is not maintained centrally; this answer has no district-level figure.

Uneven amounts across states: the released amounts range from 0.09 to 107.15 crore (printed). We did not compare these with the number of children, the number of institutions or proposals, because these are not in the answer.

Challenges and What Is Not in the Answer

Asked but not received: the number of children identified and sponsored; the number of children receiving assistance; district-wise and constituency-wise data; financial rehabilitation assistance after 18; children's counts in other states.

Unresolved points: the basis of the large differences in states' released amounts; the absence of a total in the annexure; the component-wise split of Uttar Pradesh's 15,000 children; which components the amounts went to.

What we have not read: we read only the official text and annexure of Lok Sabha unstarred question 1005. Mission Vatsalya's guidelines, the Centre-state share ratio and states' reports were not read.

The Road Ahead

Treat this as dated government information from the 24 July 2026 answer; state-wise children counts, component-wise funds and after-care assistance figures can be seen when the ministry publishes them.

Distinction of Concepts

Keep four things separate: (1) funds released to states in 2025-26; (2) children receiving non-institutional care as on 31.03.2026 (Uttar Pradesh only); (3) after-care assistance (absent in the answer); (4) the answer's figures and our calculations.

Mains View

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UPSC CSE Mains Style: Original Practice Question

What can and cannot be said from Mission Vatsalya's state-wise released-fund figures? What additional data will be needed to assess the scheme's reach to children?

(Answer in 150 words) | 10 marks

Outline of the Answer

Introduction: the scheme and question 1005 (24.07.2026). Main body: 36 rows for 2025-26, sum Rs 1,033.25 crore (ours; no printed total); the first five states about 37.6% (our calculation); Uttar Pradesh's 15,000 children (31.03.2026); why no amount-children ratio was built; asked vs given (district-wise, sponsored, after care); needed additional data. Conclusion: do not treat released funds as assistance reaching children or as per-child spending; assess reach only from same-period state-wise beneficiaries, component-wise funds and after-care detail.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Short answer: Mission Vatsalya is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development that provides institutional and non-institutional care and emergency outreach services for children in difficult circumstances. This article rests only on one Lok Sabha answer and its state-wise annexure.

Question: What is the purpose and type of Mission Vatsalya?

Mission Vatsalya is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development that provides institutional and non-institutional care and emergency outreach services for children in difficult circumstances. This article rests only on one Lok Sabha answer and its state-wise annexure.

Question: What details about funds and children did the Mission Vatsalya question ask for?

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especially in some Uttar Pradesh districts and the Aonla parliamentary constituency; (b) the implementation and monitoring arrangement; (c) the number of children identified and sponsored by Child Welfare and Protection Committees; (d) the number of children receiving financial assistance; (e) the financial rehabilitation assistance given to those leaving child care institutions after turning 18.

Question: Why was no per-child ratio drawn from Uttar Pradesh's 15,000 children and the released funds?

Per the answer: "State and UT-wise details of funds released including State of Uttar Pradesh under Mission Vatsalya scheme during the financial year 2025-26 are at Annexure." About children only this was said: "Total 15,000 children have been supported for Non-Institutional care for the State of Uttar Pradesh under Mission Vatsalya Scheme, as on 31.03.2026. District-wise and Parliamentary Constituency-wise data is not maintained centrally." The annexure's amounts are for the year 2025-26 and the children's count is the position as on 31.03.2026; the answer does not say which components the amounts went to, so we built no per-child ratio from amounts and children.

Sources

- https://sansad.in/getFile/lsapps/loksabhaquestions/annex/188/AU1005_XJpHTL.pdf - Lok Sabha unstarred question 1005 and answer, 24.07.2026 (official Parliament PDF; with annexure)

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