

CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT TO BE REVISED

'Justice for juveniles'

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In a significant move, Government has decided to revise the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 in a bid to address concerns regarding the implementation of the Act.

To facilitate faster adoption of children and set up foster care homes, the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry intends to make the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) the statutory body, which means it will have powers to regulate inter-country adoptions along with issuing guidelines on adoption and related matter.

THE AUTHORITY

- The Central Adoption Resource Authority will perform the functions of promoting in-country adoptions, regulating inter-country adoptions, issuing guidelines on adoption
- It will also carry out the functions of the Central Authority under the Hague Convention.

"The CARA will perform the functions of promoting in-country adoptions, regulating inter-country adoptions, issuing guidelines on adoption and related matters as may be necessary. It will also carry out the functions of the Central Authority under the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of inter-country adoption," the draft

Bill says.

Further, CARA will also have the power to spend money as it thinks fit for performing various functions as prescribed under this Act and such sums shall be treated as expenditure payable out of the grants.

The accounts of CARA will be audited by the Controller and Auditor-General. Besides that, according to the min-

istry's proposal, while trying the juvenile in the age group of 16-18 years involved in heinous crimes such as rape, gangrape and murder, the Juvenile Justice Board will decide whether the juvenile should be sent to observation home or required a trial under a regular court.

"In case of a child alleged to be in conflict with law who has completed 16th year of age as on the date of commission of an offence under sections 302, 326A, 376, 376A or 376D of IPC, the JJ Board shall conduct an inquiry regarding the premeditated nature of such offence, the mitigating circumstances in which such an offence was committed.

