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**LS nod to bill for  
greater role of  
DMs, ADMs in  
child care law**

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NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a bill that seeks to empower district magistrates (DMs) and additional district magistrates (ADMJs) to monitor the functions of agencies responsible for the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill also empowers the DMs and ADMJs to authorise orders of adoption and proposes that appeals on the orders of adoption are referred to a Divisional Commissioner.

Responding to the debate, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights examined the implementation of the bill and found several shortcomings. The bill seeks to ensure that action is taken without waiting "for a child to become a victim."

She said the bill sought to make the district magistrate a "synergising officer" for issues related to the protection of children.

The bill aims to remove difficulties with regard to the categorisation of offences wherein the maximum sentence is more than seven years' imprisonment.

Serious offences include offences for which the punishment under the Indian Penal Code or under any other law is imprisonment between three and seven years.

The bill also makes background and educational qualification checks mandatory before any person is made a member of a child