

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 553
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2017**

Cases of missing children

553 Shri Lal Sinh Vadodia

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that cases of missing children have come to notice from the various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to formulate any plan to trace the missing children; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a): As per the information provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), State/UT-wise missing, recovered/traced, unrecovered/untraced children during 2014-2016 is enclosed as Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): The primary responsibility of effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) vests with the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. Rule 92 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 provides procedure of inquiry regarding a missing child. Besides, Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) has been implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely Child Protection Services scheme for establishing child protection mechanisms in the

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States/UTs to create a safety net for children. The scheme provides financial support to activities under JJ Act.

At the central level, Ministry of Women & Child Development runs a website i.e. TrackChild with a module Khoya-Paya. Track child facilitates the matching of 'missing' children being reported at Police stations with those 'found' children who are residing in the Child Care Institutions (CCIs). Khoya-Paya is a citizens module on TrackChild portal, where citizens can report missing children as well as sightings of their whereabouts without losing precious time.

In addition, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been prepared for tracing missing children, and have been circulated to all the States and UTs for further dissemination to all other stake holders such as Police, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) etc. These SOPs lay down the uniform guidelines for expediting the search and rehabilitation of a

missing child all over the country. In order to reach out to all the children in difficult circumstances, a child helpline 1098 is operated through NGOs.

To rescue the missing children, Ministry of Home Affairs has advised all States/UTs to conduct month long sustained campaigns throughout the country. Five sustained campaigns namely, "Operation Smile" (from 1st January, 2015 to 31st January, 2015), "Operation Muskaan" (from 1st July, 2015 to 31st July, 2015), "Operation Smile-II" (from 1-31 January, 2016), "Operation Muskaan-II" (from 1st July, 2016 to 31st July, 2016) and "Operation Muskaan-III" (from 1st July, 2017 to 31st July, 2017) have been conducted so far.

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'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens rest primarily with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued Advisories for combating crimes against children. These Advisories are also available on www.mha.nic.in.
