

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:39

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010

MISSING CHILDREN

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of missing children are on the rise in the country including the NCT of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the total number of such cases registered during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and genderwise;
- (c) the total number of such children traced/untraced during the said period;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to trace all the missing children;
- (e) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has given any direction in this regard;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 FOR 27.7.2010 REGARDING "MISSING CHILDREN"

(a) to (c): As per the data provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of children reported as 'missing' and 'traced' for each of the years 2006, 2007 and 2008, State/UT wise including Delhi are as per Annexure.

(d): As per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, Government of India is deeply concerned with the welfare of children and through various schemes and advisories to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, augments the efforts of the States/UTs.

A detailed advisory dated 14th July, 2010 has been sent by the Central Government to all State Governments and UT Administrations wherein States/UTs have been advised to ensure all steps for improving the safety conditions in schools/ institutions, public transport used by students, children's parks/ play grounds, residential localities/ roads etc. It has also been advised that the crime prone areas should be identified and a mechanism be put in place to monitor infractions in such areas for ensuring the safety and security of students, especially girls. For this purpose the States/UTs have been advised to take following steps:

- i. Increase the number of beat constables;
- ii. Increase the number of police help booths/ kiosks, especially in remote and lonely stretches;
- iii. Increase police patrolling, especially during nights;
- iv. Posting police officers, especially women, fully equipped with policing infrastructure in crime-prone areas in adequate number.

Besides this, the steps taken by Delhi Police include a 24x7 helpline number for reporting missing person in the NCT region, advertisement in leading newspapers, registration of FIRs, development of a web-based computer application Zonal Integrated Police Net (ZIPNET) which deals with the information on missing children. Clear instructions have been issued by Delhi Police vide the revised standing order No.258/09 to register FIRs in each incident of untraced girl child of 18 years of age and below and untraced boys of 12 years and below.

(e) & (f): In the Writ Petition (Crl.) No.68 of 2008 Lalita Kumari Petitioner(s) versus Government of Uttar Pradesh & others, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 14.07.2008 gave directions to the Governments of all the States and Union Territories besides their Director Generals of Police/Commissioners of Police to the effect that if steps are not taken for registration of F.I.Rs immediately and copies thereof are not made over to the complainants, they may move the concerned Magistrates by filing complaint petitions to give

direction to the police to register case immediately upon receipt/production of copy of the orders and make over copy of the F.I.Rs to the complainants, within twenty four hours of receipt/production of copy of such orders. It may further give directions to take immediate steps for apprehending the accused persons and recovery of kidnapped / abducted persons and properties which were subject matter of theft or dacoity. In case F.I.Rs are not registered within the aforementioned time, and/or aforementioned steps are not taken by the police, the concerned Magistrate would be justified in initiating contempt proceeding against such delinquent officers and punish them for violation of its orders if no sufficient cause is shown and awarding stringent punishment like sentence of imprisonment against them inasmuch as the Disciplinary Authority would be quite justified in initiating departmental proceeding and suspending them in contemplation of the same. The Governments of all the States and Union Territories should follow these directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in letter and spirit.