

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:213

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011

MISSING CHILDREN

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Das Shri Bhakta Charan; Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane; Singh Shri Bholu; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether several cases of missing children have been reported in the country including the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of such cases registered, children traced/untraced during each of the last three years and the current year, Statewise and gender-wise;
- (c) whether there are reports of organized gangs involved in the kidnapping of such children and pushing them into prostitution, bonded labour, begging and other illegal activities;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken to coordinate efforts to curb such crimes in the country during the said period, State-wise including NCT of Delhi;
- (e) whether the Government has received any complaints with regard to nonregistration of complaints on missing children by the police personnel in the country, including NCT of Delhi; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken against the accused police personnel during the said period, State-wise including NCT of Delhi?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) to (c): As per the data provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of children reported as 'missing/traced' kidnapping and abduction for each of the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, State/UT wise are as per Annexure A & B. As per data provided by Delhi Police, a total of 6268, 5946, 5091 number of children were reported missing and a total of 1198, 2254, 2975 number of children kidnapped during 2008-2010. A total of 5829, 5336 and 3774 number of children were traced and a total of 439, 610 and 1317 number of children remained untraced during the year 2008-10.

(d): As per 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): There is no specific information available in this regard. However, this Ministry's advisory has specifically advised the State

Governments /UTs that there should be no delay, whatsoever, in registration of FIRs in all cases of crime against children. All out efforts should be made to apprehend all the accused named in the FIR immediately so as to generate confidence in the victims and their family members. The administration and police should play a more proactive role in detection and investigation of crime against children and also ensuring that there is no under reporting.