

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:135
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
NHRC REPORT ON MISSING CHILDREN
Pradhan Shri Nityananda;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has reported that a large number of children have gone missing every year in the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of such cases reported/registered, children traced/ untraced and the steps taken to trace all the children during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and gender-wise;
- (c) the number of children missing from juvenile home for girls (Balika Griha) in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi during the said period;
- (d) whether there are reports of organised gangs involved in this menace; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 135 FOR 09.08.2011

(a): National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has cited figures released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). NHRC also constituted a Committee on 12th February 2007 to examine the issue of missing children in depth from the point of view of evolving practical guidelines that would facilitate tracing and restoring missing children back to their families or to agencies/support systems where they could be taken care of and protected. A copy of the recommendations of the Committee was sent to Central Government as well as State Government/Union Territories Administration for action.

(b): 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 2008, 2009 and 2010, State/UT wise are as per Annexure.

(c): As per the inputs provided by the Govt. of NCT, Delhi, a total no. of 05, 16 and 01 children went missing in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011 -12 (till date) respectively.

(d): There are media reports about alleged involvement of organised gangs behind missing children yet there is no specific information available in this regard.

(e): 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.

Ministry of Home Affairs has also sanctioned a comprehensive scheme `Strengthening law enforcement response in India against trafficking in persons through training and capacity building` wherein it is proposed to establish 335 Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) throughout the country and impart training to 10,000 police officers through Training of Trainers (TOTs) in three years. Ministry of Home Affairs has released funds as first installment amounting to Rs. 8.72 crores to all the State Governments for establishment of 115 Anti Human Trafficking Units.