

**Bill No. 8 of 2025**

THE MISSING INDIVIDUALS BUREAU BILL, 2025

By

SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR, M.P.

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BILL

*to provide for the establishment of a Missing Individuals Bureau to track down missing individuals and carry out investigations into persons deemed missing.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1.(1) This Act may be called the Missing Individuals Bureau Act, 2025.

Short title,  
extent and  
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

5 (3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, –

Definitions.

(a) “bureau” means the Missing Persons Bureau established under section 3;

(b) “identity Proof” means any of the following documents issued by a valid Government authority, namely:

(i) Aadhaar number as defined under Clause (a) of Section 2 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016;

(ii) Birth Certificate;

(iii) Ration Card as defined under Clause (16) of Section 2 of the National Food Security Act, 2013; and

(iv) Valid Passport as defined under Clause (b) of Section 2 of the Passport Act, 1967.

(c) “missing Individual” means any individual who:

(i) has been missing from their place of occupation/study/residence (permanent or otherwise)/tourism; and

(ii) has been mentioned in a First Information Report filed under 173 of BNSS 2023;

(d) “missing persons database” means and refer to a National Database as defined under Section 11 of the Act; and

(e) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

Constitution  
of the Missing  
Individuals  
Bureau.

**3. (1) Notwithstanding anything in the Police Act, 1861, the Central Government shall, by notification may constitute a Bureau to be called the Missing Individuals Bureau for investigation into matters of missing individuals.**

(2) Subject to any orders made by the Central Government may make in this behalf, officers of the Bureau shall have throughout India and, subject to any international treaty or domestic law of the concerned country, outside India, in relation to the investigation of missing individuals, all the powers, duties, privileges and liabilities which police officers have in connection with the investigation of offences committed therein.

(3) Any officer of the Bureau above, the rank of Senior Inspector, may, subject to any order made by the Central Government in this behalf, exercise throughout India, any of the powers of the officer-in-charge of a police station in the area in which he is present for the time being and when so exercising such powers shall, subject to any such orders as aforesaid, be deemed to be an officer-in charge of a police station discharging the functions of such an officer within the limits of his station.

Superintendence  
of Bureau.

**4.** The superintendence of the Bureau shall, in so far as it relates to the investigation of missing persons, vest in the Central Government.

Appointment  
of Director.

**5. (1)** The administration of the Bureau shall vest in an officer appointed in this behalf by the Central Government, hereinafter referred to as the Director, who shall exercise in respect of the Bureau such of the powers exercisable by an Inspector-General of Police in respect of the police force in a State as the Central Government may specify in this behalf.

(2) The Central Government shall appoint the Director on the recommendation of the Committee consisting of:

(i) The Union Minister for Home Affairs-Chairperson;

(ii) The Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development-Member;

(iii) The Union Minister of State for External Affairs-Member;

(iv) The Leader of Opposition recognised as such in the House of the People, or, where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then the leader of the single largest Opposition Party in the House of the People-Member; and

5 (v) The Chief Justice of India or a sitting judge of the Supreme Court appointed by him-Member.

(3) No appointment of the Director shall be invalid merely by reason of vacancy or absence of a member of the Committee.

10 (4) The Committee shall recommend an individual for the position of a Director from a panel of officers chosen from amongst officers belonging to the Indian Police Services or Indian Administrative Services as under the All India Services Act, 1951.

(5) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the conditions of service for the Director shall be such as may be prescribed.

15 6. (1) On receipt of information and recording thereof under section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 relating to any instance of missing individual, the officer-in-charge of the concerned police station shall forward the report to the State Government within thirty days of the filing of the same.

Missing  
report of the  
individual  
to the State  
Government.

20 (2) On receipt of the report under sub-section (1), the State Government shall forward the report to the Bureau as expeditiously as possible, taking no longer than fifteen days after taking cognizance of such document.

25 (3) On receipt of report from the State Government, the Bureau shall determine, on the basis of information made available by the State Government(s), within Thirty days from the date of receipt of the report, having regard to the gravity of the issue and other relevant factors, it is a fit matter to be investigated by the Bureau.

(4) Where the Bureau is of the opinion that the particular matter is a fit case to be investigated and is of such nature that it may span across multiple states, it shall accordingly inform the Central Government and the respective State Government(s) of its intention to investigate the said matter.

30 (5) While selecting matter to be investigated, the Bureau must give priority to matters in the following order when the missing individual;

(i) is a child is under eighteen years of age;

(ii) is a female above the age of eighteen years of age;

(iii) is a transgender above the age of eighteen years of age;

35 (iv) is a male above the age of eighteen years of age;

(v) is an aged individual above the age of sixty five Years of age; and

(vi) any other individual's matter deemed necessary and important by the Bureau.

40 (6) Where the Central Government and respective State Government(s) grant the Bureau requisite permission to carry out investigations as specified under sub-section (3), then the officer-in-charge of the police station under sub-section (1) shall not proceed with their investigation and transmit all relevant documents in an expeditious manner to the Bureau:

45 Provided that till the Bureau takes up the investigation of the said matter, the officer in charge of the police station as under sub-section (1) shall be duty bound to continue with the investigation.

Transfer of  
Investigation  
to State  
Government.

7. While investigating under this Act, the Bureau may, on a case-to-case basis taking into consideration the gravity of the matter,—

(a) with prior authorisation of the respective State Government(s) and/or relevant investigative authorities as determined by the State Government(s), to associate with the investigation; and

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(b) with the previous approval of the Central Government, transfer the matter to the State Government and/or relevant investigative authorities as determined by the State Government, for investigation and trial of the offence.

Power to  
investigate  
connected  
offences.

8. Under the provisions of the Act, the Bureau, if in the course of its investigation,—

(a) determines that the matter in one state is connected to that in another state or across various States, notify each involved State Government of the same before carrying out investigations across multiple States;

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(b) apprise the Central Government of developments in matters on a regular basis and work with other Central agencies if deemed necessary and appropriate; and

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(c) other offences emerge as well, notify the respective State and Central agencies and undertake joint investigations regarding the same.

Authority  
of State  
Government  
to investigate  
matters  
of Missing  
individuals.

9. Nothing contained in this Act shall affect the powers of the State Government to investigate and prosecute any matters as specified under this Act or any other connected matter or offence under any other law for the time being in force.

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Missing  
Persons  
Database.

**10. (1) The Bureau shall maintain a Missing Persons Database which shall include details as prescribed under this Act;**

**(2) The Bureau shall be responsible for co-ordinating with respective State Governments to maintain an up-to-date Database; and**

**(3) The Database and all its entrants shall be considered as a Public Document as defined under Section 74 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.**

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Annual  
Report.

11. The Bureau shall release an extensive report regarding the various works it has undertaken in a year on its subject matters on an annual basis.

Power of  
Central  
Government to  
make rules.

12. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

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(2) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both the Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

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## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The number of missing persons in India is increasing and represents a serious challenge in ensuring safety and security of individuals. As per NCRB data, the total number of missing persons including missing children increased by 12.34 per cent. from 8,12,620 in 2019 to 9,12,926 in 2022. Out of the total missing persons and children in 2022, 4,97,393 were missing women and 94,079 were missing girls. Around 2,31,143 missing women and 33,798 missing girls are yet to be recovered and traced. If not traced timely, there is the threat that such women and girls will fall prey to organised crime such as human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Hence, it is crucial to strengthen the existing institutional and legal framework to ensure timely recovery of missing persons.

In this context, the Bill proposes to establish a specialised Bureau which aims to support State Governments by providing resources and aiding coordination in the investigation of missing persons cases, especially those spanning multiple jurisdictions between states and Union Territories of India. By facilitating cross-state investigations and coordinating efforts between State Governments, central agencies, and local authorities, the bureau will expedite search operations and ensure a unified approach to locating missing individuals.

Additionally, a centralised database of missing persons will be maintained by the Bureau to facilitate information sharing and analysis. This database will serve as a valuable tool for law enforcement agencies, researchers, and policymakers to better understand the patterns and trends of missing persons cases. By leveraging data analytics and advanced technology, the Bureau can identify potential risk factors and develop targeted interventions to prevent future disappearances.

The establishment of a dedicated Missing Persons Bureau is a crucial step towards addressing the complex issue of missing persons in India. By providing a centralised and coordinated response, the Bureau will enhance the prospects of locating missing individuals, provide timely relief to their families, and strengthen the overall response to this pressing social issue.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
*November 13, 2024*

PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the constitution of a special body called the Missing Individuals Bureau for the investigation of missing individuals. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a sum of above rupees three hundred crores will be involved as recurring expenditure per annum.

No non-recurring expenditure is likely to be involved.

## MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 12 of the Bill gives power to the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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*(Shri Putta Mahesh Kumar, M.P.)*