

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 474
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

MISSING CHILDREN AND MEASURES FOR THEIR RECOVERY

474. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- a) the total number of missing children reported, traced and recovered in the country during each of the last five years, State-wise/UT-wise;
- b) whether there has been an increase in the number of missing child cases in recent years, if so, the reasons identified by Government;
- c) the agencies, initiatives and mechanisms responsible for tracing missing children, including coordination among police;
- d) the total funds allocated, released, and utilised for programmes aimed at locating and rehabilitating missing children during the last five years; and
- e) the steps taken by Government to further strengthen the mechanism to tackle the challenges of missing children?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) & (b): As per information received from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the total number of missing children reported, traced and recovered in the country during each of the last five years, State/UT-wise is at Annexure-I.

There has been a marginal increase in the number of reported missing-child cases in recent years, and this rise is largely attributed to improved reporting systems. The strengthening of mechanisms such as the digitised police reporting, wider use of online complaint platforms, and heightened community awareness and outreach through government and Civil Society Organisations have led to more accurate and timely registration of many cases that previously

went unreported. There has been better inter-state coordination by police and child-protection agencies which has also contributed to capturing cases more comprehensively.

(c) to (e): The Ministry of Women & Child Development has developed an integrated unified Mission Vatsalya Portal in consultation and coordination with States/UTs. The TrackChild portal for Missing/Found Children, and Khoya-Paya application for Missing/Sighted Children have been integrated with this unified Mission Vatsalya Portal. The TrackChild portal is implemented with support and involvement of various stakeholders namely Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Railways, State Governments/ UT Administrations, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, National Legal Services Authority, etc. Standard operating procedure have been issued in this regard. Advisories have also been issued to all States and UTs including Director General of Police of all States & UTs and other stakeholders regarding implementation of TrackChild. It is also integrated with the Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network Systems (CCTNS) of the Ministry of Home Affairs which allows interoperability in terms of matching of F.I.Rs of missing children with data base of TrackChild to trace and match missing children by the concerned State/UT police. Further, through Khoya Paya module any citizen can report about any missing or sighted children.

The Ministry of women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) which is the primary legislation for ensuring safety, security, dignity and well-being of children and is implemented by the States and UTs.

This Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Mission Vatsalya', through the State and UT Governments to deliver various services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) as well as Children in Conflict with Law (CCL). These services include Institutional Care and Non-Institutional Care. The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the Mission Vatsalya scheme support, *inter-alia*, age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. Under non-institutional care, support is provided to the children through Sponsorship, Foster Care, Adoption and After Care.

The scheme also provides for emergency outreach services (24x7x365) for children in difficult circumstances through Child Helpline (1098) which is integrated with Emergency Response Support System-112 (ERSS-112) Helpline of Ministry of Home Affairs.

The total funds allocated and released to States/UTs to utilise for various components of Mission Vatsalya Scheme including, for locating and rehabilitating missing children, during the last five years are as under:

S. No.	Years	BE (in Rs Crores)	RE (in Rs Crores)	Released (in Rs Crores)
1	2020-21	1500	881.56	856.65

2	2021-22	900	829.65	761.18
3	2022-23	1472.17	1123.75	1043.20
4	2023-24	1472.17	1272.17	1390.80
5	2024-25	1472.17	1423.15	1405.53

ANNEXURE-I**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.474 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2025 BY SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY REGARDING MISSING CHILDREN AND MEASURES FOR THEIR RECOVERY**

STATE-WISE NUMBER OF MISSING CHILDREN REPORTED, TRACED AND RECOVERED IN THE COUNTRY DURING EACH OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS

S. No.	State/ UT	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
		Missing Child ren	Total Recovered/ Traced	Missing Child ren	Total Recovered/ Traced	Missing Child ren	Total Recovered/ Traced	Missing Child ren	Total Recovered/ Traced	Missing Child ren	Total Recovered/ Traced
1	Andhra Pradesh	3286	2737	3294	2658	4356	3589	4813	4192	5054	4331
2	Arunachal Pradesh	46	41	18	13	46	20	40	33	40	19
3	Assam	2067	1389	1562	1232	1491	1116	1573	1073	2205	1791
4	Bihar	12404	5208	12064	4773	11869	5269	12600	5819	12299	6561
5	Chhattisgarh	4460	2872	4047	2530	4795	3019	5210	3374	6798	4250
6	Goa	62	25	52	22	43	14	55	23	48	17
7	Gujarat	1983	1354	1833	1208	2020	1490	2387	1775	2251	1727
8	Haryana	3978	2610	3272	2047	3711	2137	4214	2410	4611	2740
9	Himachal Pradesh	534	429	393	293	544	456	459	379	504	423

10	Jharkh and	972	517	795	481	712	371	748	335	962	514
11	Karnat aka	1385	832	1638	1056	2157	1550	1717	1173	1893	1422
12	Kerala	2335	2195	1645	1517	1756	1638	1918	1799	2471	2369
13	Madhy a Prades h	17058	11256	14553	9944	16221	12486	15087	11161	16017	11182
14	Mahar ashtra	8276	4322	7310	4804	6635	4311	5393	2801	4619	2574
15	Manip ur	137	109	79	57	85	50	95	54	89	65
16	Megha laya	148	116	76	58	84	71	38	28	94	88
17	Mizora m	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
18	Nagala nd	53	44	30	27	29	25	45	39	47	47
19	Odisha	5503	1490	6912	3641	7404	4596	7565	2728	10775	3503
20	Punjab	2843	792	2706	537	3214	720	3607	1436	3255	1064
21	Rajast han	4697	3626	4250	3015	6158	4940	7412	6232	8012	6613
22	Sikkim	43	38	16	13	11	8	19	16	22	9
23	Tamil Nadu	5814	4263	6142	4373	8168	6301	8876	6444	10258	8233
24	Telang ana	4566	3911	3755	2978	4733	4079	4097	3588	3133	2627
25	Tripur a	179	149	157	121	189	161	154	124	268	231
26	Uttar Prades h	6089	3872	4597	2831	5294	2764	5924	3750	6167	4110

27	Uttara khand	1103	440	1062	701	987	679	958	774	1209	933
28	West Bengal	14774	8526	14071	7937	16130	9045	19540	12546	21661	14768
29	A&N Islands	55	43	33	24	34	27	44	33	61	47
30	Chandi garh	528	172	509	153	536	181	523	161	553	226
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	37	16	24	10	33	22	22	9	14	2
32	Delhi	12239	5880	10658	5292	11138	5408	11880	5840	12324	6972
33	Jammu & Kashm ir*	661	260	627	183	723	240	821	376	839	302
34	Ladak h	-	-	5	1	4	3	1	0	1	0
35	Laksha dweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puduc herry	49	40	49	43	41	41	38	35	54	48

Source: Crime in India

Note : '+' Combined data of erstwhile D&N Haveli UT and Daman & Diu UT for 2018, 2019

*' Data of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State including Ladakh for 2018, 2019
