

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2069
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026

MISSING CHILDREN AND MEASURES FOR THEIR RECOVERY

2069. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

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

- (a) total number of children reported missing, traced and recovered during each of the last five years, State-wise and UT-wise;
- (b) total number of missing children who remain untraced during each of the last five years, State-wise and UT-wise;
- (c) whether Government has observed any increase in the incidents of missing children in recent years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons identified; and
- (e) details of the agencies, institutional mechanisms and initiatives in place for tracing and recovering missing children, including the coordination framework among the police, child protection authorities and other concerned agencies?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes data on missing and recovered children in the country in its report 'Crime In India'. The said report is available at www.ncrb.gov.in/crime-in-india-year-wise.html?year=2024&keyword=

There has been a marginal increase in the number of reported missing-child cases in recent years. 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 (24x7x365) Childhelp line (1098) & Emergency Helpline-112 and heightened community awareness through government and Civil Society Organisations outreach have led to more accurate and timely registration of cases that previously went unreported. There has been better inter-state coordination between police and child-protection agencies which have also contributed to capturing cases more comprehensively.

(e): The Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed an integrated unified Mission Vatsalya Portal in consultation and coordination with States and 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 module of the Mission Vatsalya portal is implemented with support and involvement of various stakeholders namely Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Railways, State Governments and 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 and UTs and other stakeholders regarding implementation of the portal. 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 FIRs of missing children with data base of Mission Vatsalya Portal to trace and match missing children by the State and UT police concerned. Further, through Khoya Paya module, any citizen can report about any missing or sighted child. Also, all State Governments and UT Administrations have appointed the nodal officers for Missing children at State Level and District levels and details of these nodal officers have been uploaded on Mission Vatsalya portal.

The Mission Vatsalya scheme provides inter-alia 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 and Women Helpline (181). Dedicated WCD-Control Room at State level for Child Helpline have been set up in all the 36 States and UTs.
