

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4526**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28TH MARCH, 2023/ CHAITRA 7, 1945 (SAKA)

MISSING CHILDREN

4526. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between missing and traced children has widened in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of cases of missing children reported and traced across the country during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the gap between registration of such cases and conviction therein has increased in the country during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the conviction rate in such cases, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government to check such cases and improve the conviction rate?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)**

(a) to (d) : National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication "Crime in India". The published reports are available until year 2021. Specific information on conviction in cases of Missing Children is not maintained by NCRB. However, the State/UT-wise details of number of children (below 18 years) missing and traced in the country during the year 2019-21 is at Annexure.

(e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility of maintaining law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including investigation and prosecution of crime against citizens including children rest with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws.

Further, Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued the 'Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for cases of missing children' to assist Police, child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Board in dealing with the cases of missing and found or recovered children. The objective of the SOP is to put in place guidelines while dealing with cases of missing children and to work in coordination with the concerned stakeholders and respond with urgency to issues of missing child.

For providing outreach services to missing children and needy children, the Ministry of Women and Child Development operates Child Helpline No. 1098, which is operational 24/7. Apart from this, Railway Childlines at major railway platforms are also being operated to provide assistance to any needy child. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has also developed the 'Khoya-Paya' portal in 2015, which is an enabling platform, where citizens can report missing children as well as sightings of their whereabouts without losing much time.

Ministry of Women and Child Development has also initiated the “TrackChild Portal”, which enables tracking of the missing and found children. Under this, logins have been provided to the Police Stations, Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Care Institutions whereby they are required to update the information, on the portal, about missing and found children regularly.

Further, the Ministry of Women & Child Development is implementing “Child Protection Services” (CPS) (erstwhile Integrated Child Protection Scheme) under which support is provided to the States/UT Administrations with the objective to create a safe and secure environment for overall development of children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law.

In addition, Ministry of Home Affairs has been issuing advisories to States/UTs to deal with crime against children. These advisories are available on MHA’s website at: <https://www.mha.gov.in>.

ANNEXURE MENTIONED IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 4526 FOR ANSWER ON 28.03.2023 REGARDING MISSING CHILDREN.

The State/UT-wise details of number of children (below 18 years) missing and traced in the country during the year 2019-21

SL	State/UT	2019		2020		2021	
		Missing	Traced	Missing	Traced	Missing	Traced
1	Andhra Pradesh	2746	2737	2745	2658	3720	3589
2	Arunachal Pradesh	44	41	13	13	44	20
3	Assam	1410	1389	877	1232	1161	1116
4	Bihar	7299	5208	4868	4773	4578	5269
5	Chhattisgarh	3143	2872	2459	2530	3278	3019
6	Goa	31	25	15	22	13	14
7	Gujarat	1439	1354	1204	1208	1395	1490
8	Haryana	2815	2610	1904	2047	2343	2137
9	Himachal Pradesh	393	429	288	293	444	456
10	Jharkhand	356	517	340	481	400	371
11	Karnataka	835	832	1085	1056	1575	1550
12	Kerala	2183	2195	1505	1517	1609	1638
13	Madhya Pradesh	11022	11256	8751	9944	11607	12486
14	Maharashtra	4562	4322	3356	4804	4129	4311
15	Manipur	112	109	51	57	63	50
16	Meghalaya	104	116	44	58	66	71
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	37	44	21	27	26	25
19	Odisha	3151	1490	2899	3641	4133	4596
20	Punjab	894	792	655	537	1045	720
21	Rajasthan	3655	3626	3179	3015	4936	4940
22	Sikkim	38	38	11	13	8	8
23	Tamil Nadu	4519	4263	4591	4373	6399	6301
24	Telangana	3308	3911	3100	2978	3956	4079
25	Tripura	169	149	127	121	153	161
26	Uttar Pradesh	3184	3872	2380	2831	3522	2764
27	Uttarakhand	539	440	399	701	626	679
28	West Bengal	8952	8526	7648	7937	9996	9045
	TOTAL STATE(S)	66940	63163	54515	58867	71225	70905
29	A&N Islands	43	43	21	24	25	27
30	Chandigarh	202	172	153	153	180	181
31	D&N Haveli and Daman &	20	16	3	10	19	22
32	Delhi	6355	5880	4299	5292	5772	5408
33	Jammu & Kashmir	277	260	230	183	279	244
34	Ladakh	-	-	1	1	0	3
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	48	40	40	43	35	41
	TOTAL UT(S)	6945	6411	4747	5706	6310	5922
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	73885	69574	59262	64573	77535	76827

Source: Crime in India

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

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