

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 352**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH JULY, 2021/ ASHADHA 29,1943 (SAKA)

FORCED BEGGING OF CHILDREN

352. KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are several gangs active in the country that are forcing young boys and girls to beg either by kidnapping the children or by luring their parents;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of cases reported so far and the action taken in these cases; and**
- (c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such cases in future?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life of citizens, including investigation and prosecution of crime against children, rests with respective State Governments, who are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles crime statistics reported to it by States and Union Territories (UTs) and publishes the same in its annual publication ‘Crime in India’. The latest published report is of the year 2019.

Specific data in respect of gangs involved in kidnapping children is not maintained centrally. Details on total number of cases registered for kidnapping and abduction of children for the purpose of begging for the year 2017-2019 as per data published by NCRB is as follows:-

Year	No. of cases
2017	72
2018	71
2019	42

The Government of India attaches high importance in addressing crime against children and has been supplementing the efforts of State Governments by way of providing them financial assistance to establish and strengthen the infrastructure in combating crime at various levels in the States as well as by providing them regular guidance and advice through various advisories, guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued from time to time.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for tracing missing children, prepared by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, has been circulated to all States and UTs for dissemination to all stakeholders such as Police, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) etc. This SOP lays down uniform guidelines for expediting the search and rehabilitation of a missing child all over the country.

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 a national tracking system for missing and vulnerable children namely TrackChild portal, which has been implemented across the country. It also launched 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.
