

ANIL GOSWAMI

**North Block,
New Delhi.**

D.O. No.15011/75/2014-SC-ST-W

12 December, 2014

Dear Chief Secretary,

Recently, Ghaziabad Police has recovered 227 children, who have been missing from their homes in various States, in an operation titled 'Operation Smile' lasting for only 30 days and a detailed report was submitted to this Ministry. The salient points of the 'Operation Smile' are enclosed.

2. Since the Hon'ble Supreme Court has been emphasizing upon the early recovery of all missing children, it is desirable that based on the experience gained in 'Operation Smile', all State Governments/UT Administrations may take up this initiative with the following activities:

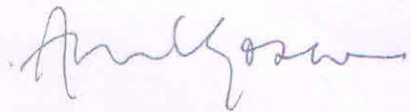
- A dedicated campaign for a month may be taken throughout the country starting from 1st January, 2015 up to 31st January, 2015.
- During this operation all children residing in shelter homes, platforms, bus stands, roads, religious places, etc. may be screened by trained Police personnel. While screening, cases of those children considered to be of 'missing children' category should be documented as per enclosed proforma. Their photographs should be taken by the respective police authorities. During this exercise, if required, video recording should also be done.
- Before 01.01.2015, the police personnel from each State need to be properly trained in various provisions of POCSO Act, JJ Act, Protection of Child Rights Act, Advisories issued by MHA, etc. Assistance of BPR&D team, experts on the panel of MHA and trained policemen of Ghaziabad Police may also be used as resource persons for such training.
- Particulars of such identified children should be uploaded in the 'Missing Child' portal of Ministry of Women & Child Development by the respective State Police.

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- Details of the identified children may be shared in the print and electronic media so that the parents, relatives, the concerned police and other stakeholders, get the information about the children.
4. I shall be grateful, if necessary action is taken by all States and UTs on war footing during the period from 1.1.2015 to 31.1.2015 to trace the missing children.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Anil Goswami)

Encl: As above.

SALIENT POINTS OF 'OPERATION SMILE'

- (a) Approximately 100 plus Police officers of various ranks were sensitized and trained about the issues related to missing children, POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice Act, Protection of Child Rights Acts and various advisories issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as MHA from time to time.
- (b) These trained Police officers have visited various parts of the country including places like Delhi, Jaipur, Haridwar, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Kolkata etc. to recover missing children in connection with various FIRs lodged at polices stations of Ghaziabad district.
- (c) One of the major findings have been that most of the children staying in shelter homes, Railway platforms, flyovers, pilgrim places, etc. were part of the missing children. When the Police personnel interacted with the children and tried to understand them, the children opened up, narrated their stories and expressed their desire to go back to their parents. In certain cases, children were not aware of the exact address because they were missing at a very young age.
- (d) The Police has also taken support of the print and electronic media and shared the details of such children. Police personnel from respective places as well as parents approached the Ghaziabad police for taking the children back.
- (e) Another major finding has been that most of the children were from economically weaker sections of the society and they left their homes primarily because of temporary discontentment with their parents or ill treatment meted out to them. Later on, they either reached some of the shelter homes or landed up in wrong hands who guided them for begging, rag picking and other kind of activities.