Dear Bhawant,

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) throughout the country since 2009-10. The scheme contributes significantly to improvements in the wellbeing of children in difficult circumstances. It also seeks to reduce vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from their families.

2. Under the scheme, there is a system for tracking 'missing' and 'found' children. With the support of the National Informatics Centre (NIC), this Ministry has developed a national portal 'TrackChild'. This captures data on missing children and maintains database to monitor the progress of found/recovered children residing in Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The objective of the TrackChild project is to facilitate the matching of missing children being reported at Police Stations with those found/recovered or children within the Child protection system.

3. All Police Stations, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Child Care Institutions are required to enter the data of children, in need of care and protection, as soon as they are brought into their system. While many of these institutions are uploading information of such children on TrackChild, some have not commenced uploading the data. A statement about the number of institutions entering data is enclosed.

4. The TrackChild will be successful only when details of all missing children are entered in the system by each institution. The substantive responsibilities for the different elements within the system are with the Home Department, and the Department for Women and Child Development. The former would need to ensure that all Police Stations upload data. The latter would similarly need to ensure that data is uploaded by the Child Care Institution (CCIs) in the State. In either case data must be uploaded regularly, and additions and deletions carried out.

5. I would be grateful if you could kindly direct the concerned officers to place the relevant data on children on the TrackChild immediately and subsequently maintain the currency and accuracy of the data.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Shri E.K. Bharat Bhushan
Chief Secretary
Government of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram - 695001