

Sl. No.	State	Sanctioned strength	In position	Posts vacant
23.	Uttar Pradesh	489	384	105
24.	Uttarakhand	69	58	11
25.	West Bengal	347	251	96
	2013 Batch of IPS probationers		145	-145
		4728	3798	930

Increase in crimes against children

2199. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that crimes against children have increased rapidly over the years, particularly it has increased to staggering 52.5 per cent during 2012-13;

(b) if so, the reasons for such increase;

(c) whether Government had formulated any comprehensive plan to curb the menace of crime against children;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) As per data available, a total number of 38,172 cases and 58,224 cases of crimes against children were registered in 2012 and 2013 respectively, registering an increase of 52.5% in 2013 over previous year.

(b) The quantum jump in number of cases registered during 2013 can be attributed to enactment of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013, in which non-registration of crimes by Police was made punishable offence u/s 166A of IPC. Moreover, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory to all States/UTs based on Hon'ble Supreme Court directions regarding filing of FIR mandatorily in case of missing children on 25.06.2013.

(c) to (e) As per Seventh Schedule to the Constitution "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes against children, lies with the State

Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention and control of crime against children and augments the efforts of States / UTs through various schemes, advisories etc.

Ministry of Home Affairs has also taken a series of measures to strengthen the legislation and implementing agencies to contain incidents of crimes against children. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013, have come to force since 3rd February, 2013. The government has amended various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. It has enhanced punishment for crimes like rape, sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism, acid attacks, indecent gestures like words and inappropriate touch etc. The new laws have provisions for increased sentence for rape convicts, including life-term and death sentence, besides providing for stringent punishment for offences such as acid attacks, stalking and voyeurism.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, which has come into effect from 14th November, 2012 is a special law to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

Apart from the above, there are several other specific legislations for crimes against children which are:

1. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000
2. Prohibition of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986
3. Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006
4. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
5. Information Technology Act, 2000 (as amended in 2008) and relevant sections of IPC
6. Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005
7. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
8. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 etc.

The above mentioned legislations comprehensively cover all aspects of crimes against children.

The advisories issued by Ministry of Home Affairs to all States / UTs on effective implementation of legislations and various aspects of crimes against children are:

- Advisory on Crime against Children issued on 14.07.2010.

- Advisory on Preventing and combating various crimes against Children issued on 04.01.2012.
- Advisory on Missing Children-measures needed to prevent trafficking and trace the children issued on 31.01.2012 and 29.10.2012.
- Advisory on protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2013 issued on 28.05.2013.
- Advisory based on Hon'ble Supreme Court directions regarding filing of FIR mandatorily in case of missing children was issued on 25.06.2013.

The advisories are available in Ministry of Home Affairs website, http://www.mha.nic.in/national_adv

Grant of infrastructure status to hotel industry

2200. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering granting infrastructure status to hotel industry; and
- (b) if so, the details and its benefits thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) notifies the Harmonised Master List of Infrastructure Sub-sectors. The Government of India Gazette notification dated 7th October, 2013 *inter-alia* have the following entries in respect of hotel industry in the category of "Social and Commercial Infrastructure":

- (i) Three-star or higher category classified hotels located outside cities with population of more than 1 million.
- (ii) Hotels with project cost of more than ₹ 200 crores each in any place in India and of any star rating. This is applicable with prospective effect from the date of notification (*i.e.* 7th October, 2013) and is available for eligible prospects for three years from the date of notification. Further, eligible costs exclude cost of land and lease charges, but include interest during construction.

(b) The categories included in the Harmonised List of Infrastructure Sub-sectors guide all the agencies responsible for supporting infrastructure in various ways, which imply *inter-alia* easier access to long term funding as well as lower interest rates.