

## **Plan to build up data base of missing children**

Staff Reporter

Rise in the number of missing children across the country has now forced the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development (WCD) to develop a portal named 'Track Child'. It has asked all State Governments to immediately upload data – photo and any other available information about the child – living in various juvenile homes and child shelters. The police have also been asked to upload information about missing children where first information report has been lodged.

The WCD with help from the States is planning to build a national data base on missing children which it claims should become functional by this year-end.

WCD Secretary Prem Narain said: "The number of children who have gone missing in the past few years has seen a substantial rise and we felt that there is a requirement for coordination between various State governments to ensure that missing children who are picked up by the police elsewhere and are sent to various shelters are immediately matched and identified. This portal, work for which is only 20 per cent complete, will be a one-stop point for police, parents, officials of children homes/shelters to upload information missing children."

Mr. Narain added that his Ministry is also holding a meeting soon with all the stakeholders including the State police and senior officials to work out the modalities.

### **Coordination**

"Though the portal is yet to be launched, the coordination between the States and the respective police has ensured that we have been able to track 1,400 children," he added.

Mr. Narain told reporters here that the idea behind the portal was that it would act as a coordination mechanism between child homes, police departments and State governments across the country.

"As soon as a boy/girl is enlisted in a home, or whenever a (missing) FIR is registered in a police station, the details will be put on the portal," Mr. Narain said.

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