

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 330**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 04TH FEBRUARY, 2025/ MAGHA 15, 1946
(SAKA)**

WOMEN JAILS

330. SMT. RACHNA BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women jails in the country, State-wise;**
- (b) whether the huge number of women inmates in the country's jails living with their children and the issue of proper diet, education and space to play for the children lodged in the jails with their mothers is rarely addressed, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the lack of adequate space in jails for women prisoners also raises questions about the well-being of these women inmates with children, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the jails do not have any formal education system for the children living with their mothers; and**
- (e) if so, whether the Government has any plan to provide formal education to those children living in jails with their mothers?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

(a): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles prison statistics reported to it by the States and Union Territories (UTs) and publishes the same in its annual publication "Prison Statistics India". The latest published report is of the year 2022. State/UT-wise number of women jails in the country as on 31.12.2022 are given in the Annexure.

(b) and (c): “Prisons”/“persons detained therein” is a “State-list” subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The administration and management of prisons and prisoners is, therefore, in the exclusive jurisdiction of respective State Governments/UT Administrations, who are competent to take appropriate steps for the welfare of women inmates and the children living with them in the jails. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), on its part, supplements the efforts of the State Governments in efficient prison administration by providing them suitable guidelines from time to time. MHA had issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories, which inter-alia, provide that the children of prison inmates living with them in the jails should be provided access to education, recreational facilities, food, shelter and medical assistance etc. The Model Prison Manual 2016 circulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs to all States and Union Territories also has a specific chapter on “Women Prisoners”, which, inter-alia, provides guidance on Children of Women prisoners living with them in the jails, their healthcare, diet, personal hygiene, etc. The Manual provides that prison administration should ensure holistic development of the children of women inmates living with them in the jails. MHA had also circulated a report titled ‘Women in Prisons’ prepared by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to all States and UTs. The report, inter-

alia, contains recommendations on ‘children of women prisoners’ and ‘better living arrangements’ for women inmates and their children, etc.

(d) and (e): The Model Prison Manual, 2016 provides that children upto the age of six years only can stay with their mothers in the jail. State Governments/UT Administrations are competent to take appropriate steps for providing formal education to children of women prisoners living in prisons. The Model Prison Manual also provides that the children of women prisoners living in the prison shall be given proper education and recreational opportunities and there shall be a well-equipped creche and a nursery school attached to a prison for women where the children of women prisoners shall be looked after.

State/UT-wise number of Women Jails in the country as on 31.12.2022

S. No.	State/UT	Number of Exclusive Women Jails
1	Andhra Pradesh	2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3	Assam	0
4	Bihar	2
5	Chhattisgarh	0
6	Goa	0
7	Gujarat	2
8	Haryana	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0
10	Jharkhand	0
11	Karnataka	1
12	Kerala	3
13	Madhya Pradesh	0
14	Maharashtra	1
15	Manipur	0
16	Meghalaya	0
17	Mizoram	1
18	Nagaland	0
19	Odisha	1
20	Punjab	2
21	Rajasthan	7
22	Sikkim	0
23	Tamil Nadu	5
24	Telangana	1
25	Tripura	1
26	Uttar Pradesh	2
27	Uttarakhand	0
28	West Bengal	1
29	A & N Islands	0
30	Chandigarh	0
31	DNH & Daman Diu	0
32	Delhi	2
33	Jammu & Kashmir	0
34	Ladakh	0
35	Lakshadweep	0
36	Puducherry	0
	Total	34
