

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1016  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2006  
WOMEN IN JAIL  
Singh Shri Prabhunath

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has ascertained the problems being faced by women prisoners in jails;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and remedial measures taken to alleviate their sufferings;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure speedy disposal of cases pertaining to women prisoners; and
- (d) the number of jails visited by him during the last two years and outcome thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) & (b): `Prisons` is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and prison administration is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The provisions of the Prisons Act and the Jail Manual framed by the respective State Governments guide prison administration. However, the Government of India has from time to time set up various Committees which have inter alia looked into the problems faced by women prisoners which include overcrowding, malnutrition and lack of proper clothing, recreational, educational, vocational and legal facilities etc.

Several recommendations were made by these Committees to provide women prisoners with the basic amenities such as nutritious diet, proper clothing, vocational and recreational facilities, legal facilities and a clean and healthy environment which will help in their rehabilitation. These recommendations have been sent to the State Governments/UTs for appropriate action.

The Government of India has also prepared a Model Prison Manual for the administration and management of prisons. There is a specific chapter in the Manual to deal with women prisoners which addresses the recommendations made by various Committees to improve their condition. The Model Prison Manual has been circulated to all States/UTs.

In addition, the Government of India is providing financial assistance to the States under the Scheme for Modernization of Prisons for construction of new prisons, repair and renovation of existing prisons and providing water and sanitation facilities. This would to a great extent, reduce overcrowding in prisons and would provide them with better living conditions.

(c): A new Section 436A has been inserted in the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 to provide that if a person, during the period of investigation, inquiry or trial of an offence under any law, has undergone detention for a period extending upto one half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for that offence under that law, he/ she shall be released on his/her personal bond. It also provides that no person shall be detained during the period of investigation, inquiry or trial for more than the maximum period of imprisonment provided for the said offence under that law.

Further, a new chapter viz XXIA has also been inserted in Cr.P.C. on Plea Bargaining to reduce pendency of cases in Courts.

The Central Government has also set up 1562 Fast Track Courts which have disposed off a total of 791344 cases so far.

(d): Prisons is a State subject. However, officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time visit various jails for reviewing the progress of the Scheme for Modernisation of Prisons.