

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:498

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014

MODERNISATION OF JAILS

Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Meena Shri Harish Chandra

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of overcrowding in the jails, if so, the number of jails along with the prisoners lodged therein vis-à-vis the capacity, gender and State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of basic facilities provided to the prisoners including security, rehabilitation, education and medical facilities;
- (c) the funds granted/utilised on modernisation of jails during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted any committee to look into the issue of modernisation of jails and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken for scientific management of the jails?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 498 FOR 12.8. 2014.

(a) As per data available, at the end of 2012, there were 3,85,135 inmates in the jails of the country out of the capacity of 3,43,169 inmates which constitute overcrowding of 12.2%. State/UT wise details showing number of jails, capacity along with prisoners lodged are at Annexure.

(b) "Prisons" is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, and Prison Administration is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Management of prisoners is governed by the respective jail manuals of the States/UTs and all required amenities for security, rehabilitation, education and medical facilities are provided to the prisoners, so that they are gainfully engaged while incarcerated and upgrade their skills for meaningful rehabilitation post release.

(c) No funds have been granted by the Government under the Scheme of Modernisation of Prisons after 2009-10 as the scheme initiated in 2002 with an outlay of Rs 1800 crore concluded in 2009. However, the Thirteenth Finance Commission has allocated Rs. 609 crore for the period 2011-15 for upgradation of prisons in Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 90 crore), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs. 10 crore), Chhattisgarh (Rs. 150 crore), Kerala (Rs. 154 crore), Maharashtra (Rs. 60 crore), Mizoram (Rs. 30 crore), Odisha (Rs. 100 crore) and Tripura (Rs. 15 crore).

(d) &(e) A Committee on Jail Reforms (Justice Mulla Committee) examined the entire gamut of issues concerning jail reforms and recommended wide ranging reforms mostly relating to legal framework and coordination between States and UTs. The recommendations of this Committee are available on the link http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/Mulla%20Committee%20implementation%20of%20recommendations%20-Vol%20I.pdf. An All India Committee on prison administration security and discipline (R. K. Kapoor Committee) went into issues concerning entire prison administration in 1986. A Model Prison Manual brought out in 2003 by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has been circulated to all States/UTs for adoption to ensure uniformity in prison administration in line with international norms.