

Death in Police Custody

*88. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether instances of deaths in police custody are on the increase in the country and the National Human Rights Commission has expressed its anxiety over the matter;

(b) if so, the details of the deaths in police custody during the last one year till date, month-wise/State-wise/Union territory-wise; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) According to the National Human Rights Commission, there is an increase in the number of deaths in police custody. As per their records, there were 193 custodial deaths in 1997-98 as against 188 custodial deaths in 1996-97 and 136 custodial deaths in 1995-96. A statement giving the break-up, State-wise/Union Territory-wise, for the year 1997-98 is enclosed.

2. Custodial deaths should have no place in a civilised society governed by the Rule of Law. The Central Government has been emphasizing on the State Governments the need to take stringent action against officials responsible for custodial deaths. Greater attention to development of proper work culture, training and orientation of the police force consistent with basic human values would be useful. Scientific aids to investigations need to be encouraged. The Central Government has been sending advisories to the State Governments in this regard, as 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	01.04.1997 to 31.03.1998
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	02
3.	Assam	14
4.	Bihar	09
5.	Goa	-
6.	Gujarat	09
7.	Haryana	03
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-

1	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	02
10.	Karnataka	06
11.	Kerala	06
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18
13.	Maharashtra	19
14.	Manipur	01
15.	Meghalaya	02
16.	Mizoram	-
17.	Nagaland	01
18.	Orissa	04
19.	Punjab	11
20.	Rajasthan	12
21.	Sikkim	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	11
23.	Tripura	03
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16
25.	West Bengal	10
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	-
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-
30.	Delhi	12
31.	Lakshadweep	-
32.	Pondicherry	01
Total		183

International Prices of Oil

*89. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether international prices of oil has come down considerably recently;

(b) if so, the average prices during each of the last three years and month-wise for 1998; and