

Regarding plight of undertrial prisoners in the country.-laid

SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV (HINDUPUR):In her speech on Constitution Day, Hon'ble President of India highlighted the disturbing situation of undertrial prisoners in India and how many people remain incarcerated despite getting bail due to poverty. According to NCRB, undertrials constitute 77.1%% of the total prison population, most of which belong to the lower castes. Out of these, 2.7% have languished in jail for over five years. Being from marginalized communities, they do not have the capabilities to arrange money for bail or local sureties. As a result, they often languish in prison even after getting bail. This is not only an issue of the ineffectiveness of the bail system but the entire system - arbitrary detention, ineffectiveness of the free legal aid, high pendency of cases, and unreformed bail conditions, to name a few. In her Budget speech, Hon?ble Minister of Finance Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman mentioned that the Government would provide financial support to undertrial prisoners who cannot afford bail amounts and surety. Hence, I request the Hon?ble Minister of Home Affairs to form a national scheme for Undertrial prisoners. I further request that the Hon?be Minister of Law and Justice strengthen the legal aid towards this cause, ensuring their basic, fundamental rights are fulfilled.