

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1850**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2023/ SRAVANA 10, 1945 (SAKA)**

**UNDERTRIAL PRISONERS**

**1850. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:**

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

**(a) whether Government has an estimate of the number of undertrial prisoners in the jails of the country;**

**(b) whether a new law is needed as suggested by Supreme Court to facilitate grant of bail in the country;**

**(c) whether the new law is needed because of low rate of conviction in the criminal cases, if so, the terms of legislation that can be done to augment the speed of disposals of legal proceedings; and**

**(d) whether arrest and detention in case of minor offences can be regulated by deadlines and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)**

**(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 2021. A total of 4,27,165 undertrial prisoners were lodged in the jails of the country as on 31.12.2021.**

**(b) to (d): Strengthening the Criminal Justice System, including making any new law on a subject and revision of relevant provisions in the Code of Criminal Procedure, etc., including on matters related to grant of bail, is a continuous process undertaken by the Government from time to time.**

**The Government of India has already initiated the process of a comprehensive review of the criminal laws, Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Penal Code, etc., in consultation with all stakeholders.**

**Arrest and detention of any person is regulated by the provisions contained in Indian Penal Code 1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 which have suitable provisions to address such matters.**

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