

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The particulars with regard to the Blocks where discrimination and untouchability is practised have been obtained from the Harijan Sevak Sangh and sent to the concerned State Governments with request to take immediate action under relevant sections of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. The Sangh has also been asked to furnish the names of the villages to the State Governments and to this Ministry.

**Supreme Court Observation Under-trial Prisoners in Jails**

334. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
SHRI R. K. MAHALGI:  
SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:  
SHRI B. D. SINGH:  
SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:  
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:  
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Press report appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 2nd and 3rd January, 1981 regarding the undertrial prisoners in various jails despite the observation made by the Supreme Court that those who had been in jail beyond what would have been their sentence, if convicted, be released; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The directions given by the Supreme Court have been brought to the notice of all States/Union territories. They have also been requested to take all appropriate steps to ensure that the cases of undertrial prisoners covered under the directions of the Supreme Court are reviewed periodically and necessary follow-up action is taken so that undertrial prisoners do not unnecessarily have to suffer long incarceration.

**Report on Blinding of under, trials in Bihar**

335. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:  
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:  
SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:  
SHRI CHHANGUR RAM:  
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have obtained any report from the Government of Bihar with regard to the inquiry conducted into the recent blinding of undertrials in Bhagalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) to (c). The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs had already made a statement in the Lok Sabha on 1-12-80 in response to the Calling Attention Notices regarding blinding of some undertrials by the police authorities in Bihar on the basis of report furnished by the Government of Bihar, A. C. B. I enquiry into this incident has also been ordered and is in progress.