

Minor incidents are attempted to be resolved periodically by holding Flag Meetings of local Commanders.

**Children Lodged in various Jails
alongwith their undertrial
mothers**

1772. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of children lodged in various jails in the country along with their mothers, and how many of them have been there for more than six months according to the recent census results ;

(b) how many of them have been in prisons with undertrial mothers for more than six months ;

(c) in which jails proper education and welfare facilities for such children do not exist and what are the essential amenities provided under the law for such children ; and

(d) what steps have been and are being taken to minimise such detention of children and to provide proposed facilities as contemplated under the law of the land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). At the recent census conducted during Feb.-

March, 1981, information had been collected about inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions, by sex and age, but not by relationships. Therefore, data about inmates of jails alone is not available separately. "Prisons" being a State subject, Government of India do not maintain statistics in this regard and no special exercise has been conducted by them to know the number of such children in jails.

(c) and (d). The Model Prison Manual commended to State Governments and Union territory Administrations for adoption with suitable local variations and the existing State Jail Manuals contain detailed provisions for the maintenance and care of the jail born children or the children living with their mothers in jail. According to these, only such of the children as have no relatives or friends prepared to receive or look after them are kept with their mothers in jail till they attain a specified age. The children who have crossed that age are kept in the nursery run by jail administration and in Children's Homes if better arrangement acceptable to the mother is not available. All reasonable facilities are attended to such children. A scheme for the establishment of creches for the children of women prisoners was also initiated in the Second Five-Year Plan. The Committee on Jail Reforms constituted in July, 1980 has also been asked to suggest measures for the specialised treatment of women, children, etc.