

## **Regarding under-trials languishing in jails**

**SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI):** Sir, my submission is with regard to the under-trial prisoners in India. They are languishing in Indian jails for years together. The total number of under-trial prisoners as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 is 1,34,799 and the breakup is one to two years, two to three years, three to five years, and above five years. They are languishing in Indian jails. Around 76 per cent of inmates in Indian prisons were under trial in 2022. In Delhi, the percentage of under-trial prisoners jumped to 90 per cent in 2020. It may also be noted that the Government of India inserted Section 436A in the Code of Criminal Procedure which provides for release of under-trial prisoners on bail who are undergoing detention for a period extending upto one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for an offence under any law.

Sir, it may also be noted that a majority of under-trial prisoners belong to oppressed caste groups including the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. This is really a very sad thing. It is blatant denial of justice. Various upper courts have also cited that this situation will have to be dealt very seriously.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take it up very seriously and ensure justice to under-trial prisoners.

Thank you very much.