

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:276

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000

JAIL REFORMS

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of jails in the country has not been improving despite the recommendations given by various reforms Commissions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of deaths/suicides occurred in jails during the last three years; and

(d) the number of under trials for over 10 years in jails and those without trial for over two years ?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K.ADVANI)

(a)to(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS(a) TO (d) LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.276 FOR 14.3. RELATING TO JAIL REFORMS.

(a)&(b): `Prisons ` is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. AS SUCH, PRISON MANAGEMENT IS PRIMARILY T RESPONSIBILITY OF THE State Governments. However, the Central Government has been stressing upon the State Governmer the need to improve the conditions in Jails and make them truly corrective and reformative institutions. The Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments through the awards of the Finance Commission as well as under the Central Scheme for Modernisation of Prison Administration to supplement their efforts in this direction.The Central Government has also prepared a draft Model Prison (Management) Bill and circulated the same to all the State Governments.This Bill is in tune with modern penological thinking.

(C) &(d): According to information contained in the Annual Reports of the National Human Rights Commission, the number of deaths that occurred in judicial custody during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 was 700, 819 and 1114, respectively. Other information sought is not maintained at Central level.