

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2820
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2000
UNDERTRIALS
M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court recently ordered the quick disposal of all undertrial cases in various courts;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have identified the number of undertrial cases in various courts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the undertrials in various courts are suffering from the mental diseases; and
- (e) if so, the likely time by which all the undertrial cases are likely to be disposed of?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) :

- (a) Some directions have been issued by the Supreme Court of India in this connection recently in the case of Upadhyay Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and Others.
- (b) and (c) The exact number of undertrial cases in various courts is not readily available. Available information, however, indicates that undertrials constitute nearly 73% of the total jail population in the country.
- (d) No such information is available with the Government.
- (e) It is not possible to fix a timeframe in this regard. However, some High Courts, namely, Bombay, Calcutta, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana and Sikkim have issued instructions to take up cases of undertrial prisoners involved in petty cases on priority basis.