

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3072
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007
WOMEN IN JAILS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of women prisoners kept in jails alongwith their minor children in the country, State-wise; and
- (b) the details of facilities are being provided to the minor children of these women prisoners?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a) : As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, there were 1333 women prisoners kept in jails alongwith their children as on 31.12.2005. The State-wise details are indicated in the statement enclosed.

(b) : As per entry 4 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, `Prisons` is a State subject and, therefore, primarily it is the responsibility of the State Governments to take necessary steps to improve the condition of prisons and prisoners. In the R. D. Upadhyaya vs State of Andhra Pradesh case, the Supreme Court has formulated guidelines for providing various facilities to the children living with their mothers in prison. The Supreme Court has directed the State Governments to follow these guidelines, which include providing the children with a healthy and clean environment, nutritious diet, good medical care, adequate clothing, educational and recreational facilities. Children below three years are required to be kept in a crèche and those between 3-6 years in a nursery. The State Legal Service authorities are also required to periodically inspect prisons to monitor that the directions given by the Supreme Court are followed in letter and spirit. The Government of India has written to all the State Governments/Union Territories to comply with these instructions.