

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:461

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007

DEATH OF PRISONERS IN JAIL

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Male/Female prisoners who died in different jails including Tihar Jail separately, during each of the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has constituted any Committee/conducted any inquiry to probe the causes of such deaths;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government against the officials found guilty and to check such incidents in future?

Answer

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

(a): The information relating to death of prisoners is not maintained jail-wise. However, as per the data compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the total number of male/female prisoners who died in different jails including Tihar jail in the country during 2003 to 2005 are as under:

Year Male prisoner Female prisoner Total

2003	1044	16	1060
2004	1144	25	1169
2005	1341	46	1387

(b) to (d): "Prisons" is a state subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

However the Model Prison Manual circulated to all State Governments prescribes various measures such as keeping the prisoners under safe and humane conditions, providing medical facilities etc. In case of death of any prisoner, the postmortem is required to be conducted immediately. A full report on the circumstances of death of prisoner is required to be submitted and suitable action against the guilty officials is to be taken as per law.

The National Human Rights Commission have also issued an advisory to all the State Governments directing that the concerned District Magistrates and Superintendent of Police should be instructed to report to the Secretary General of the Commission about such incidents within twenty four hours of the occurrence or of these officers having come to know about such incidents. Failure to report promptly would give rise to the presumption that there was an attempt to suppress the incident.