

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3498

ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008

FACILITIES TO PRISONERS

Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) the total number of jails in the country at present along with the capacity thereof and the number of prisoners lodged therein,jail-wise,gender-wise,and Statewise including Delhi;

(b) whether essential facilities are not available to the prisoners due to over crowding in the jails;and

(c) if so,the steps being taken by the Government to increase the number of jails in the country and to ensure that the prisoners are provided with essential facilities?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) As per the statistics compiled by National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB),a statement indicating number of jails in the country,capacity thereof and the number of prisoners therein jail-wise, gender wise and State-wise at the end of 2006 are at Annexure-I& II.

(b) & (c) At the end of 2006 there were 3,73,271 prisoners against the authorized capacity of 2,63,911. This does put an extra burden on the available facilities in the jails.

"Prisons" is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is the responsibility of the State Governments.However,in order to improve the condition of prisons and prisoners,the Central Government started a non-plan scheme in 2002-03 for construction of additional prisons as well as construction of additional barracks in the existing prisons to reduce overcrowding,repair and renovation of existing prisons,improvement in sanitation and water supply & living conditions of prisoners as also accommodation for prison staff.The scheme is being implemented over a period of five years with a total outlay of Rs 1800 crore on cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively. The scheme has since been extended upto 31.3.2009.