

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2332

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009

PRISON REFORMS

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce prison reforms in the country;
- (b) if so, the time frame fixed for introduction of the said prison reforms;
- (c) the funds allocated in this regard, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce the biometric system for all inmates lodged in the jails;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has also any plan to connect all the prisons via computer/internet;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the financial assistance provided by the Government for implementation of such system?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Govt. of India had constituted following committees in the past for various jail reforms in the country:

- (i) All India Jail Reforms Committee in 1980 headed by justice A.N. Mulla (Retired) which gave its report in 1983.
- (ii) Kapoor Committee (1986) to examine and review various aspects of administration and management of prisons, especially in the context of Security and discipline in Prisons and suggest measures for their improvement.
- (iii) National Expert Committee on Women Prisoners (1986) headed by Justice Krishna Iyer to examine the situation of women in jails.
- (iv) Committee on National Policy on Prison Reforms and Correctional Administration headed by DG, BPR&D.

The aforesaid Committees gave various recommendations relating to prison buildings, living conditions in prison, training of prison personnel, strengthening of security, providing medical and psychiatric services to prisoners and providing facilities to women prisoners and their children. Majority of these recommendations pertained to the State Governments. 'Prison' being a State subject, recommendations pertaining to State Governments were forwarded to them for appropriate necessary action.

In order to implement the recommendations, the Government of India launched a non-plan scheme namely "Modernization of Prisons" in 2002-03 in 27 states with an outlay of Rs.1800 crore on a cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively. The scheme has now ended on 31.3.2009.

Further, considering the demands of various States for granting further financial assistance for prison infrastructure and correctional administration and also in view of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on modernization of prisons, the Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the process of formulating second phase of the scheme. Necessary steps are being taken in this regard in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. The main components for the proposed second phase of the scheme are construction of new jail, modernization and technological upgradation of prison management, training of prison staff, correctional scheme for prisoners etc.

(d) to (e): No, Madam. However, biometric system has been introduced in Delhi Jails and Ahmedabad Central Prison & Vadodara Central Prisons by the respective State Governments. Since, Prisons is a State subject, this facility is to be implemented by the respective State Governments.

(f): No, Madam.

(g) to (h): Does not arise.

