

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:390

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010

CONDITIONS OF JAILS

Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any review about the conditions of various jails in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to modernise the jails;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total funds granted/released/ utilized during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Tihar Jail;
- (e) whether the Union Government has received any request from various State Governments to provide more funds for modernization of jails, State-wise including Gujarat; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 390 FOR 7.12.2010.

(a) to (d) "Prison" 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, the Central Government reviews matters relating to prisons and has issued several advisories in this regard. In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments, the Central Government had been providing financial assistance to the States in this field since 1987. During the period 1987-2002, an amount of Rs. 145 crores for all States put together was released. In the year 2000, Government of India had asked the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) to carry out an assessment of further requirements in prison reforms. Based on the report of BPR&D, a scheme for Modernization of Prisons was started in 2002-03 in 27 States (except Arunachal Pradesh and UTs) with an outlay of Rs. 1800 crores on a cost-sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments, respectively. The main components of this scheme, inter alia, included construction of new prisons and renovation of existing prisons with a view to reduce overcrowding and improve general amenities. The scheme of modernization of prisons stood closed on 31.3.2009. A statement showing release of funds to the State Governments under the scheme along with utilization position State-wise is at Annexure-A.

(e) & (f) Proposals from various State Governments including Government of Gujarat were received for providing further financial assistance under Phase-II of the Scheme of Modernization of Prisons. A statement showing details of proposals received from States/UTs in this regard is at Annexure-B. The proposal for Phase-II of the scheme was considered in consultation with Ministry of Finance. It was, however, decided that the Phase-II of the scheme may be shelved owing to budgetary constraints. The 13th Finance Commission has, however, provided an amount of Rs. 609 crore to various State Governments for construction and upgradation of Prisons.