

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011
EXPANSION OF JAILS
Sudhakaran Shri K.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various jails in the country are plagued with overcrowding;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the status/pace of expansion of jails in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to expand the existing capacity of jails, including setting up of more number of jails in the country so as to curtail pressure on the existing jails; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the total funds likely to be incurred in this regard, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As per the data compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the total number of prisoners in the country at the end of 2008 was 3,84,753 against the total authorized capacity of 2,97,777. Thus, there is an overcrowding in the jails to the extent of 29.2%.

(c) to (e): 'Prison' is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and , therefore, Prison Administration is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to improve the condition of prisons, prisoners and the prison staff, the Central Government had initiated a scheme namely "Modernisation of Prisons" in 2002-03 in 27 states (except Arunachal Pradesh) 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 for construction of additional prisons, repair and renovation of existing prisons, improvement in sanitation and water supply and construction of living accommodation for prison staff. The scheme has since closed on 31.3.2009. A statement indicating total central fund released to the State Government under scheme is given at Annexure.