

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2070

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011

WOMEN PRISONERS

Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of women prisoners lodged in jails alongwith the details of basic facilities provided to them, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to segregate the women prisoners in separate cell and provide training for skill development under the current five year plan;
- (c) whether the National Human Rights Commission has taken a serious view of the increase in the incidence of harassment of women prisoners in various jails in the country; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any guidelines to check this trend in future?

Answer

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

(a): As per data compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau, a total of 15929 women prisoners were kept in jails at the end of 2008. A statement indicating State-wise break up of women prisoners is at annexure.

(b): Prison is a State subject under list II of the Seventh schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the administration of prison is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments. However, the Government of India has circulated Model Prison Manual to all the States/UTs for the superintendence and management of Prisons in the country. The Manual has specific provision for keeping the women prisoners in prison/barracks exclusives meant for women prisoners. With a view to rehabilitate the women prisoner after their release, the manual has provision for providing various skill development programmes to them such as Tailoring, Embroidery, Needle-craft, spinning, Handloom, Weaving, Soap making, Hosiery work, Cane and bamboo work, Candle making, Toy making, Pottery, Stationery articles, Local handicrafts, Cottage industries, Gardening, Sewing machine repair, Typing, Computer training, Beautician's work, Telephone operation and secretarial practice, Agricultural, horticultural, diary projects, Poultry, Sericulture etc.

(c) & (d): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) monitors the condition of all the prisoners including the women prisoners and the infrastructure of prisons in the country. The observations of the Members and Special Rapporteurs of the Commission visiting all over the country are conveyed to the State Governments from time to time for implementation.