

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3141
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
MYANMARESE CITIZENS IN JAILS
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several Myanmarese citizens are languishing in the jails of the country without any justification;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to release them?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): 'Prison' is a State subject under List II of the Seventh schedule of the Constitution. Data relating to nationality wise prisoners in various jails across the country are not maintained centrally.

Once a foreign prisoner completes his sentence in India, steps are taken to deport them after carrying out necessary verification about their nationality etc in consultation with the respective countries.

A reference has, however, recently been received by the Government of India from the National Human Rights Commission with regard to 34 Myanmar Pro- democracy activists lodged in Presidential Correctional Home, Kolkata seeking asylum as these prisoners feared that they will either be killed or imprisoned if they are deported to their country. The matter was examined in consultation with the Government of West Bengal and UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). These prisoners have sent registration application to UNHCR seeking asylum.