

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1462

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011

MODERNISATION OF JAILS

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash; Bhagat Shri Sudarshan; Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram; Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ; Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai; Shantha J.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the jails in the country are overcrowded and mismanaged;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of jails in the country indicating their capacity and the number of under trials lodged in excess, State-wise including Gujarat;
- (c) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance for modernization, decongestion of jails in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the total funds granted, released and utilized separately, during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Gujarat;
- (e) whether the Union Government has discussed the matter with the State Governments;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments in this regard alongwith the steps taken by them to improve the basic amenities and medical facilities in the jails;
- (g) whether the Union Government has received any request from the various State Governments to release additional funds for modernization of prisons and completion of ongoing works; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(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 2009 was 376969 in 1374 jails against the total authorized capacity of 307052. Out of authorized capacity of 307052 in different jails, the total number of undertrials lodged is 250204, which is 66.4% of the total inmates and 81.48% of the authorised capacity. A State/UT-wise statement showing number of undertrials lodged in different jails and their percentage with reference to available capacity is at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): In order to reduce overcrowding and improving the condition of prisons and prisoners and also to ensure certain basic minimum standards for keeping the prisoners in a healthy and hygienic conditions, the Central Government had initiated a scheme for modernization of prisons in the year 2002-03 with a total outlay of 1800 crore in 27 States (excluding Arunachal Pradesh) on a sharing basis of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively. The scheme covered construction of additional prisons, repair and renovation of existing prisons and construction of additional barracks, improvement in sanitation and water supply and construction of living accommodation for prison staff. The scheme has since closed on 31.3.2009. A State-wise statement showing release of central share and utilization as on 31.5.2011 is at Annexure-II.

(e) & (f): '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, the Central Government has given a head start to the prison reforms in the country by providing funds to the State Governments to address the issues of basic amenities in prisons through the first phase of Scheme of Modernization of Prisons from 2002-03 to 2008-09. The Government of India has also issued a comprehensive advisory on 17.7.2009 to the States/UTs covering all aspects of prison administration.

(g) to (h): Yes, Madam. Keeping in view the demands of various States/UTs, proposal for second phase of scheme of modernisation of prisons amounting Rs. 4270 crore was formulated by Ministry of Home Affairs. The proposal was examined by the Committee of Non-Plan Expenditure (CNE) in the Ministry of Finance. It was, however, decided that the phase-II of the scheme be deferred for the time being owing to heavy commitment of Government of India on other important sectors. It was also decided that the State Governments may approach the Planning Commission for seeking more funds for the Modernisation of Prisons. Ministry of Home Affairs would support the proposal of State Governments as and when it is submitted to the Planning Commission. A proposal so received from the Government of Gujarat seeking additional fund to complete the ongoing projects was forwarded to the Planning Commission on 21.4.2010 in this regard.