

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:395
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009
ASADHA SAKA WOMEN PRISONERS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has taken a serious view of the increase in the incidents of oppression of women prisoners in various jails of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during each of the last three years, State- wise;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any special guidelines to check this trend;
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) monitors the condition of all the prisoners including the women prisoners and the infrastructure of jails 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.
- (b) A Statement indicating State-wise break-up of cases registered in the Commission regarding oppression of women in jails in the last three years is at annexure.
- (c) & (d) 'Police and 'Prison' are State subjects under the Seventh schedule of the Constitution and the responsibility lies primarily with the respective State Governments. However, advisories are issued from time to time by the Government of India in this regard to take stern action against the guilty officials. The Government of India has also circulated a Model Prison Manual to all the States/Union Territories in 2003 for their guidance and adoption which has specific provision for providing various facilities to the women prisoners such as separate prison/barracks for women prisoners and their children in jail, educational facilities to the children of women prisoners, providing other basic amenities such as sanitary napkins etc, various recreation and correctional programme etc.