

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1419  
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012  
JAIL MONITORING COMMITTEE  
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahb

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a Jail Monitoring Committee and included members from Non-Governmental Organisations and public representatives in the Committee in order to prevent the alleged inhuman treatment meted out to the prisoners in the jails; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (b): 'Prison' is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and, therefore, Prison Administration is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However an advisory dated 18th February 2011 has been issued by the Government on "Advisory for appointment and working of Non-Official Visitors for Prisons" for all States/UTs for compliance. This enjoins upon the States/UTs to appoint Non-Official Visitors (NOVs) for all prisons without delay. It is ensured that the system of appointment is transparent and democratic with prescribed criteria. The members being selected as NOVs have knowledge and/or expertise in areas such as prison reforms, legal rights, counseling, social work, criminology, adult education, vocational training courses for adult populations, diet and nutrition, child care, music, yoga etc. Minimum number of NOVs to each category of prisons are clearly mandated. Women visitors are also appointed as Non-official Visitors to look into the issues of women prisoners. The State Human Rights Commission suggestions on appointment of Non-Official Visitors are taken into consideration by the State Government. The terms of reference for the panel of NOVs includes monitoring of prison conditions, implementation of prison reforms, legal, mental and rehabilitative assistance, prisoners' grievance and staff problems.