

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:204
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
CONDITIONS OF WOMEN INMATES
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) team had visited various prisons, protective Homes and Mahila Thannas in Madhya Pradesh and other States and suggested some measures for improving the conditions of women inmates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the follow-up corrective action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether NCW has found/detected some deficiencies/irregularities in the prisons; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.204 FOR 24.08.2012 BY SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN REGARDING "CONDITIONS OF WOMEN INMATES".

(a) & (b): The National Commission for Women (NCW) has visited some prisons/ Women's Prison/ District Jail for Women/ Nari Bandi Niketan/ Women's Correctional Home in some States/ UT Administrations as detailed below:-

2008-09 Central Jail, Lakhimpur, Assam

2009-10

- (i) Sawai Madhopur Jail, Rajasthan,
- (ii) District Jail for Women, Shillong, Meghalaya,
- (iii) Jowai District Jail, Meghalaya,
- (iv) Sikkim State Prison, Rongyek, Sikkim,
- (v) District Prison, Namchi, Assam.

2010-11

- (i) Central Jail, Kota, Rajasthan,
- (ii) Thiruvananthapuram Jail, Kerala,
- (iii) Puducherry Jail, Puducherry,
- (iv) Central Prison, Bangalore, Karnataka,
- (v) Nari Bandi Niketan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh,
- (vi) Banda District Jail, Uttar Pradesh.

2011-12

- (i) District Jail, Gaziabad, Uttar Pradesh,
- (ii) Sub Jail, Sada Vasco, Goa,

(iii) Women's Correctional Home, Alipur, West Bengal,

(iv) Yerawada Women's Prison, Pune, Maharashtra.

The major recommendations made by NCW for improving the conditions of the women inmates are as under:-

(i) State Commissions for Women may help the inmates of the jail to get legal aid for speedy disposal of the cases and further follow up on these cases.

(ii) Counselling and psychological support be given by State Women Commissions and its partner NGOs.

(iii) Setting up of a Special Cell for women in hospital to get speedy treatment.

(iv) Separate kitchen for the female wing in the jail to improve quality of food.

(v) Inmates be given vocational training such as stitching and embroidery etc. and the children be provided with some education related training.

(vi) Provision of recreational facilities such as TV Sets.

(vii) Need for regular review of cases of women.

(viii) Improve sanitation conditions.

(ix) Opening of regular Middle Schools.

(c): 'Prisons' is a State subject under Entry-4 (Prison Reformatories, Borstal Institutions and other institutions of like nature) in the State List (List-II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the management and administration of Prisons falls in the domain of the State Governments.

Further, as per Section 10 (3) of the National Commission for Women (NCW) Act, 1990, the NCW is required to forward reports concerning State Governments to the respective State Governments who shall cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the State and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

Thus, the recommendations were brought to the notice of the concerned State Authorities by NCW for taking corrective action by the respective State Governments.

(d): NCW has found following deficiencies after the visit to Jails/ other institutions.

(i) Overcrowding.

(ii) Lack of neatness and cleanliness.

(iii) Lack of recreational facilities such as TV sets.

(iv) Non-functioning of women desk at police stations.

(v) Security and welfare of lone inmates housed in the jail.

(vi) In some Jails, economic activities were confined only to some crafts such as agarbati making, bakery and tailoring.

(e): The management and administration of prisons is a State subject. Chief Judicial Magistrate/ District Magistrates have been given the responsibility to closely monitor the administration and management of prisons under their jurisdiction and to inspect the same periodically. The Ministry of Home Affairs in the Government of India has, from time to time, been interacting with the State Governments through advisories, conferences, meetings etc on various aspects of prison administration including appropriate security measures in prisons.