

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1877

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009

MODERNISATION OF JAILS

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**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 undertrials lodged in excess;
- (c) whether the Union Government has held any discussion with the State Governments to tackle the problem;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and outcome of the discussions;
- (e) whether the Government has received any proposal from various State Governments regarding modernisation and decongestion of jails;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether a proposal for the modernisation of jails had earlier been rejected by the Ministry of Finance; and
- (h) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to address the reservations of the Ministry of Finance?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): As per data compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the total number of jails in the country at the end of 2007 were 1276.

The total authorized capacities of these jails were 277304. However, against this, the total prison population were 3,76,396. Thus the overcrowding in Indian prisons exists to the extent of 135.7%.

Various categories of jails, their capacity, population and occupancy rate is given as under:

Type of jail	No. of Jail	Capacity	No. of inmates	Occupancy rate
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Central jails	113	123079	166047	134.9
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District jails	309	103853	157731	151.9
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Sub jails	769	37532	42263	112.6
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Women jails	16	3047	2777	91.1
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Borstal School	10	1602	737	46
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Open jails	28	3076	2346	76.3
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Special jails 25 4649 4038 86.9

Others 6 466 457 98.1

Total 1276 277304 376396 135.7

(C) to (f): Yes Madam. An all India Conference of Jail Ministers/Secretary (Jails)/DGs and IG (Prisons) of State/UT was held in April 2008. During the conference, decision were taken to address inter-alia, the following issues relating to the prisons.

(a) overcrowding prisons,

(b) improving living conditions by providing basic sanitation and sewage facilities,

(c) undertaking correctional administration measures for rehabilitation and reformation of prisoners,

(d) providing technical and vocational training to the prison inmates,

(e) modrenisation and technological upgradation of prisons so as to provide better administration and improve the security system of prisons,

(f) training of prison staff for improving administration,

The State Governments/UTs have sent proposals seeking financial assistance to address the aforesaid issues.

(g) & (h): Considering the demand of various States for granting further financial assistance for construction of new jails/additional barracks so

as to address the problem of overcrowding, proposal for 2nd phase of scheme of modrenisation of prisons was formulated by Ministry of Home Affairs. The proposal was examined by the Committee of Non-Plan Expenditure (CNE) in the Ministry of Finance. AS outcome of CNE meeting it was decided not to go ahead with the second phase of scheme for the time being owing to heavy commitments of Government of India on other important sectors. It has also been decided that the State Government may approach the Planning Commission for seeking more funds for the Modernisation of Prisons. The Government of India will support the Proposal of the State Governments when they submit the same to the Planning commission.