

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:496

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013

MODERNISATION OF JAILS

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) The details of jails functioning in the country and the number of prisoners lodged in each jail vis-à-vis its capacity, State-wise;
- (b) the total funds granted/utilised during the 11th and 12th Five Year Plans for modernisation of prisons and completion of various projects relating to jail separately, and the name of the States which have not fully utilised the funds along with the action taken in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments regarding enhancement of the capacity of jails, improvement in housing facility, reformatory services, extension of modernisation of prisons scheme, additional funds for modernisation of jails etc.;
- (d) if so, the details of such proposals received along with the action taken by the Government thereon during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to increase the capacity of jails, ensure full utilisation of funds and for construction of more jails in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 496 FOR 30TH APRIL, 2013.

(a): As per data compiled by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) at the end of 2011, there were total of 1382 jails in the country which included 123 Central Jails, 333 District Jails, 809 Sub Jails, 19 Women Jails, 44 Open Jails, 21 Borstal Schools, 30 Special Jails and 3 Other Jails. The number of prisoners lodged in each State vis-a-vis its inmates capacity as on 30-11-2012 is given on the Ministry of Home Affairs website at the link <http://mha.nic.in/pdfs/NoOfPrioners30.11.2012260413.pdf>.

(b): The Government had implemented a Non-Plan scheme for Modernisation of Prisons which was initiated in the 10th Five Year Plan and continued in the 11th Five Year Plan from 2002-2007 for 27 States(except Arunachal Pradesh) with an outlay of Rs. 1800 crore with cost sharing basis of 75:25 between Centre and States and the same closed on 31-3-2009. As on date unutilised funds with the States total Rs. 15.38 crore (Assam – Rs. 1.25 crore, Chhattisgarh – Rs. 6.41 crore, Maharashtra – Rs. 6.00 crore, Sikkim – Rs. 1.52 crore and Uttar Pradesh – Rs. 0.20 crore). The progress of utilization of funds is being regularly monitored in the review meetings with the States. The Thirteenth Finance Commission has also allocated grants-in-aid for prisons (Rs. 609 crore over a period from 2011-2015) to the following eight States–Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha and Tripura.

(c) & (d): To consolidate the gains of the first phase of modernization of prisons scheme, a follow up scheme to be known as the second phase of modernization of prisons is under active consideration of the Government for which specific inputs had been called for from all the States/UTs. The proposals received so far from States/UTs for the Second phase are as per Annexure.

(e): The Government is of the view that mere capacity addition is not the solution to the problem of overcrowding which is predominantly a result of the large Undertrial inmate population. Hence States/UTs were requested to take certain measures for reducing overcrowding in jails and also the first phase of modernization of prisons scheme resulted in capacity addition through construction of 126 new jails and 1579 additional barracks. As a result the overcrowding has come down to 12.1% at the end of 2011 which was 35.73% in 2007; 29.21% in 2008, 22.8% in 2009 and 15.1% in 2010. Further as undertrials constitute the majority of inmates, the Government have taken a number of measures for reducing the number of undertrials like establishment of Fast Track Courts, introduction of plea bargaining, holding of Lok Adalats, implementation of section 436 and 436A of Cr.P.C, release of undertrials under section 4(3) of Probation of Offenders Act. An advisory regarding use of section 436A of the Cr.P.C to reduce overcrowding of prisons by taking up cases of undertrials who have completed one-fourth of the maximum sentence, has also been issued to States/UTs on 17.1.2013.