

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:340
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013
SEMI OPEN PRISONS
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has opened some semi-open prisons in certain States recently;
- (b) if so, the details and the aims and objectives thereof; and
- (c) the total funds granted in this regard, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): A Semi-Open Prison (SOP) has recently been opened at Tihar Central jail, Delhi on 11.06.2013 with the objective to enable selected prisoners to re-socialise in the society after their release from the prison. The facility of SOP is extended only to those convicted prisoners who display good conduct, are physically and mentally fit and are willing to do hard work as prescribed for them. Such inmates should have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for more than five years but less than twelve years and their remaining sentence should be less than two years and in case of life convicts who have under gone twelve years of actual imprisonment without remission. A Selection Committee headed by Dy. Inspector General (DIG) selects the inmates for facility of SOP. The prisoners who are considered dangerous or are involved in serious prison offences like assault, outbreak, riots, mutiny or attempted escape, or who have been found violating prison discipline, or are habitual or repeat offenders or are convicted for offences such as dacoity, terror crimes, kidnapping, smuggling, drug related offences under NDPS Act, foreigners or members of organized criminal gangs are not considered for being lodged in the SOP.

In addition Himachal Pradesh has also recently declared in the months of March and May 2013, one barrack each in Central jail Nahan, Kanda, Dist jail Dharamshala, Chamba and sub jail Solan and Mandi for the purpose of housing inmates entitled for open air facility with aims and objectives of Open air jail at Bilaspur.

(c): No funds have been granted by the Government of India in this regard.