

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3973  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009  
TELEPHONE FACILITY FOR JAIL INMATES  
Deora Shri Milind Murl

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce telephone facility for jail inmates in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the threat perception arising from the said proposal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): 'Prison' is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and, therefore, Prison Administration is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

However, Department Related Parliamentary Standing sub-committee on modernization of prisons has recommended for providing telephone facility in some selected prisons of the country on a trial basis which could be used by the prisoners in the presence of jail staff. The telephone conversation could be recorded which would help in tracking the connections of the hardened criminals. It was observed by the Committee that the telephone facility for inmates could check illegal use of mobile phones in the prisons.

Prisons being the State subject, the Government of India has forwarded the aforesaid recommendations to all the States/Union Territories for taking appropriate action.

Recently, this facility has been introduced by some of the State Governments such as West Bengal and NCT of Delhi (Tihar Jail) in their jails on trial basis.