

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2199  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014  
FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN OF WOMEN PRISONERS  
Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has conducted any study and maintains specific data regarding children living with women prisoners and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether her Ministry in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs and State Governments provides/proposes to provide basic amenities and education facilities for children of women prisoners;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor along with other steps taken by Ministry in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a): The Ministry of Women and Child Development has not conducted any study and no such data is maintained centrally regarding the children living with women prisoners.

(b) to (d): "Prison is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the administration and management of prison is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has introduced the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2009-10, to contribute to the improvement in the well being of children in difficult circumstances including children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. Under ICPS, financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations, for provision of services for such children, including children of women prisoners who are children in need of care and protection. These include placement in Children's Homes if there is no family to look after the said child, or sponsorship support if the child is living with family (financial support for education) to ensure that their education can continue in an undisturbed manner. Once placed in a children's home the said child would receive multiple kinds of care and support including food, education, medical attention, vocational training, counseling etc. so that despite their disturbed family circumstances they can continue to develop to their full potential.

Further, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a comprehensive advisory dated 15th May, 2006 on 'Facilities to the children of women prisoners-Guidelines issued by the Supreme Court- regarding', which provides inter-alia, for steps to be taken by the States/UTs for providing education and recreation for children of female prisoners and also providing for crèches and nursery attached to the prison for women to look after children of women prisoners- children below three years of age shall be allowed in the crèches while those between three and six years of age shall be looked after in the nursery.