

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2299
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
USE OF MOBILE PHONES IN TIHAR JAIL
Nayak Shri B.V.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there have been a number of instances when mobile phones have been sneaked into the Tihar jail by the prisoners which are being used for receiving/conveying of messages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether to control the said menace, upgraded mobile towers have been installed in the jail premises;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to control this menace;
- (e) whether similar complaints have also been received from other prisons in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (b): In year 2014, 33 number of mobile phones were recovered from the prison premises/prisoners.

(c) to (d): Thirty two Cell Phone Jammers have been installed in jails to rule out any possibility of use of mobile phones by inmates in jails. These jammers block communication in GSM 900/1800 MHZ and CDMA Band and Cellular activities like incoming and outgoing calls, SMS, picture sending, web access etc. The existing jammers have been upgraded to block 3G communications as well. This will curb the smuggling of mobile phones inside the prison.

(e) & (f): 'Prisons' is a State subject as per entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the administration and management of prisons is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, an advisory has been issued by the Government on 7th June 2010 to States/UTs on 'Use of mobile phone in prisons' which enjoins upon the State Government/UT administrations to take immediate measures for strengthening of security in jails and keep a regular watch on entry of mobile phones in jails.