

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:492

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

JAIL VISITS BY FOREIGNERS

Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Sigrival Shri Janardan Singh

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

- (a) the norms/guidelines laid down by the Government to regulate visit by foreign journalists/researchers to Indian jails/ prisons;
- (b) whether the Government has decided to delegate powers to the States/Union Territories to accord permission/clear prison visits by foreign journalists/researchers after the visit of British filmmaker to interview Nirbhaya`s rapist in Tihar Jail;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to release fresh advisory listing the broad guidelines for authorising Jail visits by foreigners to the States/UTs and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRE QUESTION NO. 492 FOR 28.04.2015.

(a): Although "Prisons" is a State subject under List-II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and the management and administration of Prisons falls exclusively in the domain of the State Governments/UT administrations, yet in order to aid the efforts of the State Governments/UT Administrations in screening the cases of visits of foreign journalists/researchers to Indian jails, an advisory dated 06-12-2012 was issued by the Government of India to ensure security of the premises, an objective projection of jail environment and allow genuine interactions for the purpose of research and studies on prison inmates.

(b) to (d): However, in view of the experience gained while implementing the aforesaid guidelines, a need was felt for reviewing the same and a committee was constituted for the purpose of revising the guidelines in consultation with the key stakeholders. The draft guidelines are under examination and will be issued shortly.