

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Over Crowding in Tihar Jail

*456. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to news item "Problems in Tihar Jail due to over-crowding" published in Times of India dated 9 October, 1981;

(b) if so, the number of prisoners in Tihar Jail against the sanctioned capacity; and

(c) steps taken to remove the inhuman living want of exquisite accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government have seen the news item captioned "Problems of Tihar Jail due to over-crowding" published in the Times of India dated 9th October, 1981. The number of prisoners housed in Tihar Jail at Present is around 2000, against the sanctioned capacity of 1273. The living conditions of the inmates of the Jail, though not ideal, are not inhuman. The Government are fully seized of the problem and have, among others, taken the following steps to reduce over-crowding:—

(i) 158 long-term prisoners have been transferred to the jails in Haryana.

(ii) The capacity of the Camp Jail which is an annexe of the Tihar Jail is proposed to be raised from 500 to 785. The construction work expected to be completed by 31.3.1982 will raise the capacity to 710. The remaining work will be taken up in 1982-83 to reach the capacity of 785.

(iii) It is proposed to construct two more District Jails in Delhi. Land measuring 78.62 acres has

already been acquired near Shahdara, Delhi and efforts are afoot to acquire land for the second jail.

(iv) The existing Tihar Jail is proposed to be divided into three independent units. The scheme of trifurcation has been approved and sanction for a sum of Rs. 46.8 lakhs has issued. On completion the jail will have three self-contained units with separate gates, kitchen, stores etc. This will facilitate segregation of undertrials, female and juvenile prisoners from long term convicts.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: The Minister says, the conditions are not inhuman but not ideal. I want to know by what time he is going to make the conditions ideal. I want to know whether electricity, sanitation and all these things are available in the present jail because it was constructed long ago.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is very difficult to say when we will make the condition ideal, because the concept will go on changing from time to time. What is ideal today may not be ideal tomorrow. So, it is not possible for me to tell when we will make it ideal.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you afraid that by making it ideal, you might not attract more people?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: So far as the other question is concerned, there is electricity and water and there are fans also in the jails.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: The Minister is a progressive person. I want that he should be ahead of times. I want to know whether as at present he has achieved it and if not, how much time he will take and whether he is keeping the future requirements and future ideas in mind?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, I have

already replied. So far as the second part is concerned, yes, we will keep it in mind.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: In Tihar Jail there have been reports.....

MR. SPEAKER: Where have you been all these days?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Not in Tihar Jail.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: There have been reports of overcrowding in that Jail, misuse of jail premises, molestation of women prisoners. The Superintendent of the Jail was involved in all these things. When he was transferred, he tried to hush up all this. On this a thorough inquiry was made. Will the hon. Minister place the entire facts before Parliament?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: We have communicated our findings to the Delhi Administration. And the steps which they have taken including punishment to the officer, have been communicated to us. I will place it on the Table of the House because it is a lengthy one.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri D. M. Putte Gowda.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: He has written a letter to you authorising me to put the question.

MR. SPEAKER: That will come in the second round. Shri Ram Singh Shakya—not there. Shri Sheo Sharan Verma—not there. Shri Uttambhai Patel—absent. This is the third consecutive day when we are having a hat-trick.

Absentees are continuous in row. Shri Chiranjji Lal Sharma—Absent. He is the fourth absentee.

Allocation of Funds in Kerala Plan, 1980-81 for Welfare of SC/ST

*461. **SHRI A. A. RAHIM:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) what were the total funds earmarked for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the Annual Plan, 1980-81 of Kerala;

(b) whether the funds were utilised fully for the purpose; and

(c) whether there was any diversion of funds to other purposes; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

The funds earmarked for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Kerala during 1980-81 and the utilisation as reported by the State Government may be seen in the following table:

Scheduled Castes				Scheduled Tribes			
Special Component Plan: Flow from State Plan		Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan		Tribal sub-Plan: Flow from State Plan		Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan	
Outlay	Expendi- diture	Out-lay	Expen- diture	Out-lay	Expendi- ture	Outlay	Expendi- ture
1728.42	1463.65	262.00	163.79	305.00	305.19	57.00	64.82

(Rs. in lakhs)