

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 227**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024/ AGRAHAYANA 6, 1946
(SAKA)**

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE IN PRISONS

227 SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that regardless of 31 jails for women only 18 per cent of women inmates are lodged in such jails, if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken steps to ensure menstrual equity and hygiene in prison especially among those women who are not lodged in all-women jails; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

(a) to (c): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles prison statistics reported to it by the States and Union Territories (UTs) and publishes the same in its annual publication "Prison Statistics India". The latest published report is of the year 2022. As on 31st December, 2022, 23772 women inmates were lodged in the jails of the country. Out of these, 4240 women inmates were lodged in 'exclusive' women prisons.

'Prisons'/persons detained therein' is a "State List" subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Administration and management of prisons and prisoners is therefore the exclusive responsibility of respective States/UTs, who are competent to take appropriate action for establishing women prisons at various locations in their respective jurisdictions and house prisoners in them according to administrative need and requirements and to take appropriate measures for welfare of jail inmates. The Model Prison Manual 2016 prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and circulated to all States and Union Territories in the year 2016 has a specific chapter on "Women Prisoners", which, inter-alia, provides that it is desirable that at least one women's jail be established in each State. The Manual provides that separate enclosures within a district or central prison may be established for housing female inmates where there are no exclusive jails for women.

The Model Prison Manual also lays down several steps for the welfare of women prisoners which, inter alia, provides that sterilized

sanitary pads should be issued to women prisoners. MHA has also issued advisories to the States/UTs for adopting appropriate measures to improve health care facilities in prisons.
