

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3738**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH MARCH, 2026/ CHAITRA 4, 1948 (SAKA)

LACK OF GENDER-SENSITIVE PRISON INFRASTRUCTURE

3738. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that less than one-third of prisons have functional women-specific facilities, including crèches, trained female staff and gender-sensitive rehabilitation programmes;**
- (b) whether Government has taken note of deficiencies in childcare, legal aid, mental health and reproductive healthcare services for women inmates;**
- (c) the steps taken to upgrade prison infrastructure and staffing to meet the specific needs of women prisoners, especially mothers; and**
- (d) if not, the reasons for continuing with a largely punitive custodial framework instead of adopting a gender-responsive correctional approach?**

ANSWER

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

(a): 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 2023. Specific information in this regard is not available centrally.

(b) to (d): “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, including women prisoners, therefore, exclusively falls in the jurisdiction of States/UTs, who have the responsibility of taking cognizance of any deficiencies in childcare, legal aid, mental health and reproductive healthcare services, etc. for women inmates and for taking necessary steps for upgradation of prison infrastructure and staff to meet the specific needs of women prisoners.

However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has provided detailed guidelines to States and UTs on various aspects of efficient prison administration through the Model Prison Manual, 2016 shared with all States and UTs. The Manual has a dedicated chapter on “Women Prisoners”, which provides guidance on childcare, mental health care, reproductive healthcare and other related welfare measures for the women prisoners and their children in prisons. The Manual provides that to ensure access to justice to all, timely legal aid services should be provided to needy prisoners and assistance of lady members of the district legal aid committee should be made available to women prisoners to help them with their procedural and legal problems. The State Legal Services Authorities have also established Legal Service Clinics in the jails, who provide free legal aid to persons in need, including women prisoners with children.

The Manual also provides guidance that the staff assigned to work with women prisoners shall receive training relating to gender-specific needs and human rights of women and that such staff shall also be sensitised regarding situations and instances where women inmates may feel particularly distressed, so as to ensure that they are provided appropriate support. The Manual further provides guidance that all requisite facilities with reference to the special needs of women prisoners, such as segregation, security, pregnancy, child birth, family care, health care, rehabilitation, etc. should be provided to them.

However, since 'Prisons' is a State-list subject, it is for States and UTs to make use of the guidance provided to them for better prison administration and welfare of women inmates.
