

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3404**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH DECEMBER, 2016/ AGRAHAYANA 15, 1938
(SAKA)**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF HEAD OF PRISONS

3404. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Conference of Heads of Prisons of States and UTs on prison Reform was held recently, and if so, the issues discussed and resolution passed therein;

(b) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) is ready to share best practices with the Bureau of Police Research and Development for bringing prison reforms, particularly in the context of women inmates and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has requested the State Governments to adopt PM's Skill Development programme to accelerate Prison Reforms;

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereon;

(e) whether there is slow progress in reducing the overcrowding of prisons; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to speed up the prison reforms?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a): The Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) organized the 5th National Conference of Head of Prisons of States/UTs on Prison

Reforms at New Delhi on 29-30 September 2016. The following four themes were selected for the conference:

- a. Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Prisoners.**
- b. Technology for Prisons.**
- c. Best Practices in Prisons with Special Reference to Agriculture and Industry.**
- d. Security in Prisons.**

After detailed deliberations, 11 resolutions were adopted. A statement containing the details of the Resolutions adopted is at Annex.

(b): National Commission for Women has informed that as per its mandate in terms of Section 10(k) of the NCW Act, 1990, the NCW inspects/undertakes visit to jails, remand homes, women's institutions or other custodial institutes where women are kept as prisoners. Thereafter, NCW shares its reports with recommendations with the concerned jail authorities including State Governments for remedial action, if found necessary.

(c) to (d): Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories to States Governments to accelerate skill development of prisoners.

(e) to (f): Prisons is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, the Government of India

has taken various administrative and legislative measures for reducing the number of undertrials in the prisons with a view to addressing the issue of overcrowding. Some of the measures taken are: (a) Establishment of Fast Track Courts (FTCs), (b) Creation of additional capacity of prisons through the Scheme of Modernisation of Prisons, (c) Launch of National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, (d) Insertion of a new section viz. 436A in the Criminal Procedure Code etc.

Annexure referred to in part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3404 for answer on 06.12.2016

Resolutions adopted by 5th National Conference of Heads of Prisons of States/UTs on Prison Reforms :-

- 1. The nomenclature of Prisons Department in the States should be changed to “Department of Correctional Services”, which should have integrated prison, correctional and probation services.**
- 2. All States should have Probation service/Officer in Prisons. Every state should establish a Welfare Wing under Prison Department comprising Welfare Officers, Law Officers, Counselors and Probation Officers.**
- 3. A National Prison Mission on the lines of National Police Mission or a Micro Mission on Prisons should be set up.**
- 4. In order to ensure basic uniformity in prison rules, regulations, standards, procedures and their implementation in different states and Union Territories, the States should revise implementation in different States and Union Territories, the States should revise their existing Prison Manuals by adopting the provisions of Model Prison Manual, 2016 prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- 5. Government of India may consider establishing additional Regional Institutes of Correctional Administration for each region of India and one National Correctional Administration for each region of India and one National Conference Administration Academy.**
- 6. Government of India may formulate a ‘Modernization of Prisons Scheme-Phase II’ as a follow up to the ‘Modernization of Prisons Scheme’ was very successful in improving the Prison infrastructure in the country.**
- 7. National Conference of Head of Prisons/Correctional Administrators should be held annually like DGsP and IGsP Conference.**
- 8. All Prisons should be linked with Courts through video conferencing for expeditious trial and to save the costs in escorting the under trial prisoners to Courts.**
- 9. Prison e-system should be integrated with CCTNS as well as e-courts on priority basis.**
- 10. The existing vacancies in all ranks of Prison Departments should be filled up expeditiously.**
- 11. Combined training of Prison, Police, Health Department and Judiciary on Undertrial Management and separate training course on De-radicalization of prisoners should be conducted.**