

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.320
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2018

PRISON REFORMS

320. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been many disquieting reports about the way in which women are treated in prisons across the country over the last several years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is supporting/assisting the National Commission for Women in conducting prison reforms to ameliorate the condition of women in prisons; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.320 FOR 16.03.2018 ASKED BY SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI REGARDING PRISON REFORMS

- (a) & (b): The National Commission for Women (NCW) as well as the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) periodically conduct visits to prisons across the country and report on conditions of prisoners. As part of these efforts, there have been reports of inadequate facilities for women in prisons. These reports are available with NCW and BPR&D.
- (c) & (d): The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with NCW conducts visits across the country to assess the condition of women in prison. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has, with a view to improve the facilities available in Custodial Homes/Prisons, housing women inmates, devised a detailed Proforma for inspecting prisons. The Proforma includes details of all facilities including the physical infrastructure, human resources, medical facilities, provision for safety/security of inmates, availability of power, availability of open space, sleeping arrangements, conditions of sanitation and hygiene, availability of kitchen garden/kitchen facilities, toilets, provision for imparting skill development training, yoga, meditation, availability of library and recreation rooms as also indoor sports facilities. It also provides for collecting information in respect of the cases for which women have been kept in the custodial homes, their status as under-trials or convicts and the nature of offence, their educational profile, medical conditions, if any, and engagement with civil society organisations/NGOs, etc. The Commission inspects the various prisons in which representatives of the State Legal Services Authority/District Legal Services Authority, NGOs, State Commission for Women also participate. The findings of the inspection are shared with concerned authorities and are utilised for improving the condition of Jails as also facilities available in Jails. The Government has been providing the required budget to the National Commission for Women for undertaking all activities of the Commission.
