

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2085**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31ST JULY, 2018 /SHRAVANA 9, 1940 (SAKA)

FACILITIES TO WOMEN PRISONERS

2085. DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether women prisoners lodged in different jails are often deprived of basic needs like medical facilities, sanitary napkins, education facilities and even legal awareness;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry in association with the National Commission for Women (NCW), is planning to introduce new jail reforms;

(d) if so, the time by which these reforms are likely to come into force;

(e) whether the Government has undertaken any projects to provide sanitary napkins or menstrual cups to women prisoners for maintenance of health and hygiene; and

(f) if so, whether the same will be distributed free of cost and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): 'Prisons' and 'persons detained therein' is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Administration and management of prisons is the responsibility of respective State Governments. The Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared and circulated the Model Prison Manual 2016 to all States and UTs. The

Manual provides guidance to all States and UTs on various aspects of prison management and welfare of prison inmates like 'Medical Care', 'Education of Prisoners' and 'Legal Aid' etc. There is a dedicated chapter in the Manual titled 'Women Prisoners' which lays down several steps for the healthcare and welfare of women prisoners which, *inter alia*, provides that sterilized sanitary pads should be issued to women prisoners as per their requirement. The Ministry of Home Affairs also issues various advisories to States and UTs from time to time which are available on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Jail reform is a continuous process and no time frame can be prescribed in this regard. State Governments are competent to provide necessary facilities to prison inmates and introduce necessary jail reforms as may be necessary for the welfare of prisoners including women inmates.
