

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2273**

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

OVERCROWDING IN JAILS

†2273. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed concern over the increasing number of inmates in the Jails and passed an order while giving hearing in a case regarding inhuman condition prevalent in 1382 jails across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the number of inmates in the jails of the country is 150 times more than the capacity of the jails;

(d) if so, whether the Supreme Court has appealed to all the High Courts of the country to take suo moto cognizance of such matters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): In Writ Petition No. 406 of 2013 regarding Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated May 8, 2018 made observation on the issue of overcrowding in prisons. The Court observed that this matter should be considered by each High Court independently with the assistance of the State Legal Services

Authority/High Court Legal Services Committee. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also requested the Chief Justice of all High Courts to take up the issue of overcrowding in prisons as a *suo moto* writ petition. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also forwarded the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to all States and UTs for compliance.

As per information provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), as against the available capacity of 380876 inmates in various jails of the country, 433003 inmates were lodged as on 31.12.2016, which is 113.3%.
