

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3446**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7TH AUGUST, 2018/ SHRAVANA 16, 1940 (SAKA)

REPORT ON WOMEN IN PRISON

3446. SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has come up with a report on 'Women in Prisons' recently;

(b) if so, the Excerpts and recommendations of the report;

(c) whether the Report has suggested any changes in the National Model Prison Manual, 2016 and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Report proposes separate accommodation for the mothers in post natal stage and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal for a Comprehensive Reintegration Programme for released prisoners and if so, the details thereof;

(f) the number of prisons in India exclusively for women; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of the recommendations of the said report?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a report on Women in Prisons. The main recommendations contained in this report are given in Annexure.

(c): In the Report, some suggestions have been made to make some changes in the Model Prison Manual in respect of inspection of Prisons, children of women prisoners, welfare of children of women prisoners, diet/food, special extra diet on medical grounds, clothing, personal hygiene, amenities, interview, vocational training, labour, health and medical facilities, prison discipline etc.

(d): It has been recommended in the report that mothers in postnatal stage should be allowed separate accommodation to maintain hygiene and protect the infant from contagion for at least a year after childbirth.

(e): “Prisons” and ‘persons detained therein’ is a State subject as per entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The administration and management of prisons is the responsibility of respective State Governments. The States are competent to evolve suitable reintegration programmes for released prisoners.

(f): As on 31.12.2016, there were 20 prisons across the country exclusively for women inmates.

(g): Prison Reforms is a continuous process. Based on the suggestions received from various quarters, MHA issues advisories to States and UTs from time to time sharing the best practices and recommendations made by various Committees etc.

Recommendations

The adequate implementation of existing provisions will go a long way in improving the prison system. The National Model Prison Manual 2016 is a progressive document outlining the basic entitlement of women in prison and should be adopted by all States followed by its full implementation.

Vocational training and skilling facilities in prisons should be upgraded as it can improve the daily lives of prisoners and give them some economic support after release.

A robust grievance redressal mechanism should be put in place in all prisons to ensure the rights of prisoners are not violated and their concerns are heard impartially. There should be both internal and external mechanisms for inmates to represent their grievances.

Regular and thorough inspections of prisons are also an effective way of ensuring that rules are being followed. This should be exercised in all prisons, with inspections conducted in an independent spirit.

The number of undertrial prisoners in India is huge. Steps should be taken to facilitate their early release under Section 436A of CrPC. Further, non-custodial measures such as community service, housing in shelters etc. should be given preference in the case of female offenders.

A comprehensive after-care programme can be prevent recidivism and help in the smooth transition of women in society after release. This should include support for various aspects of post-imprisonment life including housing, employment, marriage, prevention of harassment by local police etc.