

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1167**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th DECEMBER, 2018 / AGRAHAYANA 27, 1940
(SAKA)**

CONDITION OF JAILS AND OBSERVATION HOMES

1167. SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the observation made by two Supreme Court judges regarding the primeval condition in jails and observation homes where under trial prisoners and children are housed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to improve the condition in the prisons and observation homes in the Capital?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Two Supreme Court Judges had visited Faridabad Jail and Observation Home on June 3, 2018 and found certain deficiencies, such as non-availability of police to escort juveniles to Courts, adjournment of proceedings of the Court is granting bail bonds; lack of video conference facility in juvenile homes; instances of witnesses not being examined by the Court on the ground of non-availability of time; need for strict monitoring to ensure that no witness is returned unexamined; adjournments being granted leisurely in respect of long custody in petty cases; parole procedure unduly prolonged in the absence of timelines; in

L.S.US.Q NO. 1167 FOR 18.12.2018

spite of availability of land, convicts whose labour could be utilized in agriculture or animal husbandry operations not utilized; unsatisfactory situation of infants being with their mothers in custody; number of trials are prolonged awaiting forensic reports; for effective monitoring designated vigilance Judge may periodically visit jails; panel advocates appointed by Legal Services Authority found to have no knowledge of rights of prisoners etc; many persons are in custody for default of payment of maintenance for long periods.

(c): The measures taken to improve the condition of Jails in the NCT of Delhi are at Annexure. Further, the Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that they have already started implementation of orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court including Video Conferencing Facility for Juvenile Justice Boards.

Steps taken by NCT Delhi to improve the conditions in jails in Delhi:

- 1. Around 979 CCTV Cameras have been installed to monitor the activities of the prisoners.**
- 2. Regular search are conducted in all the wards including High Security ward of each jail.**
- 3. Special search teams headed by Senior Official are constituted at the head quarter for conducting surprise checks in various prisons on regular basis.**
- 4. Alarm parade are conducted regularly for checking the alertness of the staff at any point of time.**
- 5. Reshuffling of the prisoner is carried out in every jail with the view to break the nexus of the inmates.**
- 6. In order to ensure round the clock supervision over the inmates' activities, one Dy. Superintendent is deployed inside the prison from morning lock-out till evening lock-up.**
- 7. Gumsum group formed specifically among the inmates, for identifying such inmates who seems to be depressed. Regular interaction and necessary counselling is done to keep them busy and stress free.**
- 8. There is 120 bedded hospital at Central Jail No.3, Tihar and dispensaries in each jail for providing round the clock health care to the prisoners. Further de-addiction centre for drug addicted prisoners is functional in Central Jail No.3, Tihar**
- 9. NGOs also assist in forming a self sufficient community for prisoners to lead a harmonious community life with tolerance towards each other like respect for each other's sentiments intermixing of persons of different castes, creeds, language and religion celebration of festivals by all, Respect for elders, Character and education workshops on regular basis, Regular sports and cultural programmes.**
- 10. There is a Behaviour Therapy ward with 20 bedded capacity, where treatment for mental health is provided by the Psychiatrist.**
- 11. Welfare Officer from Social Welfare Department, GNCT of Delhi also augments counselling to the needy prisoners.**
- 12. Free legal aid facilities are provided to the inmates through the advocates of Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA)/ Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee (DHCLSC).**
- 13. Vocational training is provided to the inmates for various courses. Various vocational courses are being taken-up by Delhi Prison to create self confidence in the prisoners. The prisoners engaged in various vocational activities such as Blanket unit, Soap unit, artificial flower unit, Dhoopbati making, Fashion Designing, Art & Craft, Shoe making, weaving section, cutting and tailoring, Beauty Parlour, Plumber' electrical papad and pickle making, bakery unit etc.**
- 14. There are frequent visits by Additional Sessions Judges to inspect the condition of prisons.**
- 15. In association with National Literacy Mission, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India,"Padho Aur Padhao" had been launched in Delhi Prisons. This program is vigorously followed in all the jails and the result the literacy rate had declined from 40% to around 5%. Further, National Institute of Open Schooling and Indra Gandhi National Open University have opened their sub centre in Delhi Prison to provide education to the inmates. Also the computer centre has been established in jails for imparting computer literacy to the prisoners.**