GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1252

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

PRISON REFORMS

1252.   SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measure to reform the country's century old system of prisons and bring changes in the criminal justice system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken appropriate comprehensive measures to improve the conditions of prisons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): '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 primarily the responsibility of respective State Governments.   However, The Government has implemented the e-prisons project and has provided financial assistance to all States and UTs.   The project provides nation-wide integrated information about inmates and provides assistance to inmates in booking visits and information related to their term of sentence, parole etc. Advisories have also been issued to the States and UTs from time to time on issues concerning prisons   and   prison administration. The   Ministry   of Home Affairs has also   prepared a Model

Prison Manual 2016 and has forwarded the same to all States and UTs in May 2016. The Manual covers various aspects of prison infrastructure and prison administration viz. Headquarters organization, custodial management, maintenance of prisoners, Medical Care, Prison Discipline, High Security Prisoners, Staff Development, Welfare of Prisoners etc.

Besides this, the Ministry of Home Affairs holds regular meetings and conferences with the prison authorities and deliberates various issues with specific focus on improving the conditions of prisons and welfare of prison inmates.

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