

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 668**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH FEBRUARY 2024/ MAGHA 17, 1945 (SAKA)

SUPPORT FOR PRISONERS SCHEME

**668. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:
SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details and manner in which the scheme, 'Support for Prisoners', assist financially disadvantaged prisoners, particularly those from socially disadvantaged or marginalized groups;

(b) whether any consultations have taken place with relevant stakeholders to finalise the scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government provide financial support to the States for extending relief to poor prisoners who cannot avail bail or secure release due to non-payment of fines?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)**

(a) to (c): For providing support to poor and indigent prisoners, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has prepared the "Support to Poor Prisoners" scheme, which aims at providing relief to poor prisoners, who are unable to pay the fine amount or are unable to secure bail due to financial constraints. The Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for implementation of the Scheme were finalized in consultation with various subject experts, legal advisors and State Government officials,

etc. These were shared with the States/Union Territories (UTs) on 19.6.2023 and are available on MHA's website: www.mha.gov.in .

Funds have been provided by the Central Government in the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) Account. States/UTs have been advised to open a subsidiary Bank account for the "Support to Poor Prisoners" Scheme at the State/UT headquarter level and have it mapped with the CNA account.

States/UTs have been advised to constitute an 'Empowered Committee' in every District of the State/UT, which will assess the requirement of financial support required in each eligible case for securing bail or for payment of fine, etc. Based on the decision taken by the District level Empowered Committee, funds will be drawn from the CNA account by the State/UT Headquarter level Nodal officer and the amount approved by the District level Committee will be paid to the concerned Court for payment of fine/securing bail, etc.
