

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.835**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

**WOMEN PRISONERS IN INDIA**

835. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has published a report on the subject, 'Women Prisoners in India' and if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations of the report; and
- (b) the measures taken by the Union Government and State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard to address the issues of women prisoners pertaining to pregnancy and childbirth in prison, mental health, legal aid and reintegration in society and their care giving responsibilities?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (b) : 'Prisons' and 'Persons detained therein' is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The administration and management of prisons and prisoners is the responsibility of respective State Governments/ UT Administrations. The States are competent to undertake appropriate steps to address the issues of women prisoners.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared a report in 2018, titled 'Women in Prisons' which contained recommendations such as improving mental health of inmates, improved access to legal aid, after-care programme for reintegration and taking care of children of women inmates, special provision for pregnant women and better accommodation for new mothers etc. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) circulated the report to the Home/ Prison Department of all States and Union Territories for their careful perusal and implementation of the suggestions made in the report for the welfare of women prison inmates.

MHA had also prepared and circulated a Model Prison Manual, 2016 to all States and Union Territories. It has a dedicated chapter on 'Women Prisoners' and the guidelines to be followed for pregnant women inmates and their children etc.

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