

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4257**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH AUGUST, 2025/SHRAVAN 28, 1947 (SAKA)

SC AND ST PRISONERS

4257. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons lodged in prisons as under-trials as on 30 June 2025, State-wise;

(b) the number of SC and ST persons in prisons as convicted prisoners on the same date, State-wise;

(c) the share (in percent) of SC and ST under-trials related to the total under-trial population in each State;

(d) whether any study has been undertaken since 2023 to examine delays in investigation, charge-sheet filing and trial completion for SC/ST accused, and, if so, the details of key findings; and

(e) the steps being taken, to fast-track courts, legal-aid expansion, periodic bail review and reduce prolonged pre-trial detention of SC/ST persons?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

(a) to (c): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles prison statistics reported to it by the States and Union Territories (UTs) and publishes the same in its annual publication "Prison Statistics India."

The latest published data is of the year 2022. Details of State/UT-wise

number of undertrial prisoners in the jails of the country, number of undertrial prisoners belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and their percentage with respect to total undertrial population, as on 31.12.2022, are given in Annexure-I. State/UT-wise number of convicts belonging to SCs & STs as on 31.12.2022 are given in Annexure-II.

(d): ‘Police’, ‘Public Order’, ‘Prisons’ and ‘persons detained therein’ are State-list subjects under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. States/UTs are competent to undertake appropriate studies in their respective jurisdictions for examining the issue of delay in investigation, charge-sheet filing and trial completion for all prisoners, including SC/ST undertrial prisoners.

(e): Administration and management of prisons and prisoners is the responsibility of respective State Governments since “Prisons/persons detained therein” is a State-list subject. Therefore, it is for the respective State/UT Governments to periodically assess the requirement of establishing Fast Track Courts, legal aid expansion, undertake bail review issues for reducing prolonged pre-trial detention in their respective jurisdictions. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has also been supplementing the efforts of the States/UTs in this regard by

issuing guidelines in the form of various advisories issued from time to time and by introducing Central Schemes like Support to Poor Prisoners, etc.

The State Legal Services Authorities have established Legal Service Clinics in the jails of the country for providing free legal aid to all persons in need, including SC/ST prisoners. Such clinics have been established in jails to ensure that no prisoner remains unrepresented and legal aid and advice is provided to the prisoners. Additionally, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) also conducts awareness camps in the jails for generating awareness about the availability of free legal aid, plea bargaining, Lok Adalats, and the legal rights of inmates, including their right to bail. Trial hearings through Video Conference have also been enabled between the court complexes and jails for expediting the trial process.

State/UT-wise total number of undertrial prisoners in the jails of the country, number of undertrial prisoners belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and their percentage with respect to total undertrial population, as on 31.12.2022

S. No.	State/UT	Total undertrial prisoners	SC Undertrial Prisoners	Percentage of SC Undertrial Prisoners	ST Undertrial Prisoners	Percentage of ST Undertrial Prisoners
1	Andhra Pradesh	5123	1478	28.85%	1186	23.15%
2	Arunachal Pradesh	184	0	0.00%	122	66.30%
3	Assam	8608	882	10.25%	1144	13.29%
4	Bihar	57537	11826	20.55%	2046	3.56%
5	Chhattisgarh	12820	2292	17.88%	4044	31.54%
6	Goa	572	67	11.71%	84	14.69%
7	Gujarat	11129	1381	12.41%	1541	13.85%
8	Haryana	19279	5004	25.96%	997	5.17%
9	Himachal Pradesh	1926	562	29.18%	55	2.86%
10	Jharkhand	14786	2572	17.39%	4056	27.43%
11	Karnataka	12605	2711	21.51%	1135	9.00%
12	Kerala	5610	960	17.11%	194	3.46%
13	Madhya Pradesh	26877	5661	21.06%	5706	21.23%
14	Maharashtra ##	32883	-	-	-	-
15	Manipur	592	1	0.17%	200	33.78%
16	Meghalaya	829	101	12.18%	631	76.12%
17	Mizoram	1049	31	2.96%	1009	96.19%
18	Nagaland	302	54	17.88%	214	70.86%
19	Odisha	16058	4907	30.56%	3741	23.30%
20	Punjab	24198	8306	34.33%	1004	4.15%
21	Rajasthan	19233	4171	21.69%	2934	15.26%
22	Sikkim	268	44	16.42%	60	22.39%
23	Tamil Nadu	11564	3552	30.72%	237	2.05%
24	Telangana	4221	901	21.35%	629	14.90%
25	Tripura	735	139	18.91%	163	22.18%
26	Uttar Pradesh	94131	24693	26.23%	5209	5.53%
27	Uttarakhand	4722	1388	29.39%	220	4.66%
28	West Bengal	23706	2911	12.28%	946	3.99%
29	A & N Islands	173	0	0.00%	14	8.09%
30	Chandigarh	832	251	30.17%	1	0.12%
31	DNH & Daman Diu	162	6	3.70%	50	30.86%
32	Delhi	16759	3698	22.07%	294	1.75%
33	Jammu & Kashmir	4587	335	7.30%	335	7.30%
34	Ladakh	26	0	0.00%	14	53.85%
35	Lakshadweep	6	0	0.00%	6	100.00%
36	Puducherry	210	66	31.43%	0	0.00%
	Total	434302	90951	20.94%	40221	9.26%

- Maharashtra has not provided a separate breakup of prisoners belonging to SC/ST community.

State/UT-wise number of convicts belonging to Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes as on 31.12.2022

S. No.	State/UT	SC Convicts	ST Convicts
1	Andhra Pradesh	695	426
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	85
3	Assam	353	469
4	Bihar	1085	279
5	Chhattisgarh	1447	2542
6	Goa	9	7
7	Gujarat	623	939
8	Haryana	1470	314
9	Himachal Pradesh	296	26
10	Jharkhand	731	1633
11	Karnataka	675	454
12	Kerala	472	125
13	Madhya Pradesh	4631	4910
14	Maharashtra ##	-	-
15	Manipur	0	16
16	Meghalaya	23	255
17	Mizoram	10	518
18	Nagaland	29	106
19	Odisha	722	1011
20	Punjab	2515	320
21	Rajasthan	1366	888
22	Sikkim	11	35
23	Tamil Nadu	1566	144
24	Telangana	365	252
25	Tripura	91	133
26	Uttar Pradesh	5943	1567
27	Uttarakhand	519	97
28	West Bengal	708	302
29	A & N Islands	0	1
30	Chandigarh	137	0
31	DNH & Daman Diu	1	0
32	Delhi	428	40
33	Jammu & Kashmir	8	15
34	Ladakh	0	1
35	Lakshadweep	0	0
36	Puducherry	22	0
	Total	26952	17910

- Maharashtra has not provided a separate breakup of prisoners belonging to SC/ST community.