

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2398
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 13th FEBRUARY, 2026**

UNDERTRIAL PRISONERS AND MEASURES FOR EXPEDITED RELEASE

**2398. DR. PRABHA MALLIKARJUN:
SHRI TANGELLA UDAY SRINIVAS:**

Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of undertrial prisoners lodged in jails for periods of up to three years, three to five years and more than five years, category-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the initiatives undertaken to reduce prolonged undertrial detention, along with details of funds allocated, released and utilised therefor;
- (c) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised by Undertrial Review Committees during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise, with district-wise details for Andhra Pradesh, including Kakinada;
- (d) the number of undertrial prisoners recommended for release by UTRCs and the number actually released during the said period;
- (e) the steps taken to operationalise bail reforms under recent judicial directions; and
- (f) whether any technology-based systems have been adopted for identification, tracking and timely release of eligible undertrial prisoners and if so, the details thereof, including funding and inter-agency coordination mechanisms?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a):** 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”. As per the latest published data for the year 2023, State/UT wise number of undertrial prisoners confined upto three years, three to five years and more than five years in the jails of the country as on 31.12.2023 are attached as given at **Annexure – A** (Category Wise) and **Annexure – B** (State Wise). These data are readily available on National Crime Records Bureau website: <https://www.ncrb.gov.in/uploads/files/PSI-20231.pdf>.

(b) and (c): ‘Prisons and Prisoners’ is a State-list subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the administration and management of prisons and prisoners is the responsibility of respective State Governments. Central Government has also been supplementing the efforts of State Governments in this regard.

With the objective of providing financial assistance to poor prisoners, who are unable to pay the fine imposed on them or are unable to secure bail due to financial constraints, the Government is implementing a scheme named “Support to Poor Prisoners”. The guidelines and SOP for implementation of the Scheme, has provision for bail assistance amounting upto Rs. 1 lakh, prescribing timelines for case processing, and simplification of procedures for drawal and utilisation of funds.

For implementation of the Scheme, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had provided an annual financial outlay of Rs. 20 crore for three years i.e. 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26. As on 10.02.2026, funds amounting to Rs. 71,71,476/- have already been utilized by States and UTs, providing benefit of the Scheme to 273 eligible prisoners.

Further, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has taken initiatives for establishment of Under Trial Review Committees (UTRCs) in all the districts to recommend for release of eligible undertrial prisoners and convicts. Quarterly meetings are held by UTRCs across the country. NALSA allocates funds to the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and the SLSAs allocate funds to the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs). NALSA does not maintain DLSA/HCLSC and scheme wise details of funds allocation and utilisation.

(d) to (f): The number of undertrial prisoners recommended by UTRCs and released during last five years are as under:

Year	No. of UTPs/ Convicts recommended for bail/ release	No. of inmates released pursuant to UTRCs recommendations
2021	36,983	17,020
2022	70,780	35,480
2023	73,274	34,232
2024	53,594	25,982
2025	40,434	22,523
Total	2,75,065	1,35,237

Several initiatives are undertaken by the Government to operationalize bail reforms. Section 479 (1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) provides that “Where a person has, during the period of investigation, inquiry or trial under this Sanhita of an offence under any law (not being an offence for which the punishment of death or life imprisonment has been specified as one of the punishments under that law) undergone detention for a period extending up to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for that offence under that law, he shall be released by the Court on bail.”

The Proviso under Section 479 (1) of the BNSS provides further relief to first time offenders/undertrial prisoners and provides that “where such person is a first-time offender (who has never been convicted of any offence in the past), he shall be released on bond by the Court, if he has undergone detention for the period extending up to one-third of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for such offence under that law.” Further, technology based alerts are generated through the ePrisons portal under Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) and are sent to concerned officials for taking appropriate action for timely release of undertrial prisoners.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2398 for answer on 13/02/2026 regarding 'Undertrial Prisoners and Measures for Expedited Release'

State/UT-wise and Category-wise number of Undertrial Prisoners lodged in jails as on 31st December, 2023						
S. No.	State/UT	SC	ST	OBC	Others	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	1089	1453	1908	1118	5568
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	9	124	48	7	188
3	ASSAM	863	898	2434	3351	7546
4	BIHAR	8549	1514	26411	10055	46529
5	CHHATTISGARH	2100	3648	4025	1747	11520
6	GOA	44	61	59	312	476
7	GUJARAT	1409	1719	5353	3068	11549
8	HARYANA	5868	1564	5920	5940	19292
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	537	35	161	1094	1827
10	JHARKHAND	2398	3765	5488	1933	13584
11	KARNATAKA	2627	1237	6888	971	11723
12	KERALA	1115	428	3353	1168	6064
13	MADHYA PRADESH	4385	4891	9279	4409	22964
14	MAHARASHTRA ^s	-	-	-	-	32438
15	MANIPUR	15	142	104	155	416
16	MEGHALAYA	102	643	48	88	881
17	MIZORAM	77	1168	1	1	1247
18	NAGALAND	25	318	58	31	432
19	ODISHA	4374	3961	3982	2461	14778
20	PUNJAB	7389	2134	3659	11321	24503

21	RAJASTHAN	3636	2767	7240	3620	17263
22	SIKKIM	30	36	89	16	171
23	TAMIL NADU	3887	308	7906	250	12351
24	TELANGANA	831	501	1429	1038	3799
25	TRIPURA	144	185	87	431	847
26	UTTAR PRADESH	20534	3489	31596	17872	73491
27	UTTARAKHAND	1369	298	1284	1447	4398
28	WEST BENGAL	2437	840	2442	14575	20294
29	A & N ISLANDS	0	4	17	147	168
30	CHANDIGARH	267	2	168	281	718
31	DNH & DAMAN DIU	22	16	37	59	134
32	DELHI	3838	383	5753	7860	17834
33	JAMMU & KASHMIR	165	432	187	3784	4568
34	LADAKH	0	20	6	16	42
35	LAKSHADWEEP	0	3	0	0	3
36	PUDUCHERRY	57	0	245	2	304
	TOTAL	80192	38987	137665	100628	389910
☐ As per data provided by States/UTs			\$ Maharashtra did not provide breakup.			

Source: Prison Statistics India 2023 Report by National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Annexure-B

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2398 for answer on 13/02/2026 regarding 'Undertrial Prisoners and Measures for Expedited Release'

State/UT-wise number of Undertrial prisoners lodged in jails for period of up to three years, three to five years and above five years as on 31st December, 2023				
S. No.	State/UT	Upto 3 years	3 to 5 Years	Above 5 Years
(1)	(2)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	5529	36	3
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	171	14	3
3	ASSAM	7263	136	147
4	BIHAR	45035	1198	296
5	CHHATTISGARH	10975	501	44
6	GOA	390	64	22
7	GUJARAT	10219	866	464
8	HARYANA	18098	778	416
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1645	125	57
10	JHARKHAND	12172	931	481
11	KARNATAKA	10867	630	226
12	KERALA	6030	26	8
13	MADHYA PRADESH	21792	1057	115
14	MAHARASHTRA	26402	3823	2213
15	MANIPUR	393	5	18
16	MEGHALAYA	802	55	24
17	MIZORAM	1235	12	0
18	NAGALAND	409	11	12
19	ODISHA	13480	884	414
20	PUNJAB	23270	1050	183
21	RAJASTHAN	15523	1276	464
22	SIKKIM	167	4	0
23	TAMIL NADU	12199	106	46
24	TELANGANA	3769	21	9
25	TRIPURA	847	0	0
26	UTTAR PRADESH	65378	5474	2639
27	UTTARAKHAND	4099	251	48
28	WEST BENGAL	17128	1921	1245
29	A & N ISLANDS	150	16	2
30	CHANDIGARH	679	30	9
31	DNH & DAMAN DIU	102	22	10
32	DELHI	16286	1051	497
33	JAMMU & KASHMIR	3667	626	275

34	LADAKH	36	4	2
35	LAKSHADWEEP	3	0	0
36	PUDUCHERRY	302	2	0
	TOTAL	356512	23006	10392

Source: Prison Statistics India 2023 Report by National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.