

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1456

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 08TH DECEMBER, 2015/ AGRAHAYANA 17, 1937 (SAKA)

CCTV CAMERAS IN POLICE STATION

1456. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Union and State Governments to put police stations and interrogation rooms under surveillance of CCTV cameras to prevent custodial torture and deaths; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union and State Governments?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) & (b) : In the Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 539/1986 filed by Shri Dilip K. Basu against State of West Bengal & Ors, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 24.07.2015 has given the following directions to all the State Governments to put police stations and interrogation rooms under surveillance of CCTV cameras to prevent custodial torture and deaths:-

i) The State Governments shall take steps to install CCTV cameras in all the prisons in their respective States, within a period of one year from today but not later than two years.

ii) The State Governments shall also consider installation of CCTV cameras in police stations in a phased manner depending upon the incidents of human rights violation reported in such stations.

In the Judgment, the Hon'ble Court gave direction to the State Governments only. There is no direction to Union of India for such action. All the State Governments were Respondents in the case. As per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, 'Police' is a State subject and it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to formulate legislation, rules and regulations etc for bringing transparency in investigations in violation of human rights.
