

more popular and effective. The Stakeholder Ministries/Departments/Agencies have been directed to improve the requisite infrastructure/facilities for successful implementation of Tourist Visa-on-Arrival scheme.

Break-up of men/women prisoners in jails

†3161. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of incarcerated prisoners in various parts of the country;
- (b) out of them, the break-up of men/ women prisoners and the types of crimes for which young prisoners are serving incarceration;
- (c) whether for want of prisons, larger number of prisoners are put there than they have a capacity for; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN):
(a) and (b) As per latest statistic published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there were 3,84,753 prisoners lodged in the various jails of the country at the end of 2008. Out of this, the total number of male and female prisoners were 3,68,824 and 15,929, respectively.

Data relating to the types of crimes for which young prisoners are serving incarceration are not maintained centrally. However, all these prisoners have been convicted/imprisoned for offences under IPC and Special Local Laws.

(c) and (d) As per latest statistics published by the NCRB, at the end of 2008, there were 3,84,753 prisoners in various prisons of the country against the total capacity of 2,97,777 prisoners. Thus there was overcrowding to the extent of 29.2%.

Reactivating terrorist elements in Punjab

3162. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that inimical agencies abroad have been attempting to reactivate Sikh terrorist elements, forging a nexus between Lashkar-e-Taiba and terror groups like Babbar Khalsa International, Khalistan Zindabad Force and mobilizing their resources for planning terrorist violence in Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Khalistani groups have now set up a new base in Malaysia and sending arms to carry out terror strike in Punjab;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.