

Financial assistance to Rajasthan for upgradation of jails

†254. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the detail of financial assistance provided by the Central Government to the State of Rajasthan during the last financial year for upgradation of jails;

(b) whether any special assistance has been provided for education etc. of children of women inmates; and

(c) if so, the quantum of amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No financial assistance has been provided by the Central Government during 2009-10 for upgradation of jails in Rajasthan as the Scheme of Modernisation of Prisons has ended on 31.3.2009.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Since "prisons" is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, it is the responsibility of State Governments to provide such facility to the children of women inmates.

Character certificate from legislators to avail benefits in Puducherry

†255. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that when a person applies to avail benefits of various Government schemes in Puducherry, he/she has to enclose a character certificate issued by a Member of Parliament or M.L.A.;

(b) since there is no such provision in the Constitution of the country, under which a character certificate from an M.P. or M.L.A. is required to avail benefits of Government schemes, whether this is violation of fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. It is not obligatory for the applicants to attach a character

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.