

**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

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.