

**Funds for modernisation of jails in Odisha**

\*189. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal of the State Government of Odisha for release of funds for modernisation of jails in the State is pending with the Ministry; and

(b) whether the Ministry would consider sanction of the proposal as delay in sanction hinders the process of modernisation of the jails in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) 'Prisons' is a State subject under List-II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and, therefore, prison administration is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, to consolidate the gains of the first phase of modernization of prisons scheme, a follow up scheme known as the second phase of modernization of prisons was considered by the Government of India for which proposals from States/UTs were received. The proposal amounting to ₹ 892.14 crore for prison modernization was received from the Government of Odisha which included estimates for ₹ 776.97 crore for prison infrastructure, ₹ 19 crore for rehabilitation and ₹ 96.17 crore for prison security. The second phase of Prison Modernisation Scheme could not be launched due to paucity of funds.

However, a consolidated Memorandum was submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Fourteenth Finance Commission for consideration which included the demands projected by the States/UTs amounting to ₹ 13,962.60 crore for prison reforms in the second phase of modernization of prisons. The Fourteenth Finance Commission has observed that in view of the improved outlay for States now, there is appropriate fiscal space to provide for additional expenditure needed for their requirements. The Fourteenth Finance Commission has not made any specific fund allocation in favour of Central Government for this purpose. Therefore, with appropriate prioritization, the State should be able to meet the proposed expenditure on modernisation of its jails from its available resources.

**CAPEXIL operating without Executive Director**

190. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) has been operating without a full-fledged Executive Director for the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to depute a full time senior official to manage the affairs of CAPEXIL on regular basis in order to promote export of Chemicals and Allied Products from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is sub-judice in Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) Action has been initiated for filing an Interim Application to seek permission of Supreme Court for appointment of an Interim Executive Director till the case is finally decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

#### **Bulletproof screens in front of Attari land border gates**

\*191. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to bulletproof the gates at the international border of Attari, Hussaniwala and Sadqi to bolster its defence against any cross border attack keeping in mind the Wagah border suicide bombing in Pakistan, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this is the first time since partition that Government has installed rolling bulletproof screens in front of Attari land border gates to protect viewers from any direct small arm fire from across the border or from stray splinters in case of a suicide bombing near the border and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration to bulletproof the gates at the international border of Attari, Hussainiwala and Sadqi. However, 2 numbers of improvised rolling bullet proof screens (size 8' x 8') have been placed besides the iron gates installed at international border of Attari. These rolling bullet proof screens can be rolled and placed in front of Attari gate to prevent any small arm fire from across the border or from the stray splinters in case of suicide bombing near the border.

#### **Scarcity of funds under NEIIPP**

\*192. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no funds under the North-East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007-2017;