

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;