

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been discrimination in providing financial help to aggrieved families on account of sacrifice by personnel belonging to Military or Para-military forces; and

(d) if so, the reasons for discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Prisoners killed in Tihar Jail

2468. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during last two years, a number of prisoners have been killed in Tihar Jail;

(b) if so, the reasons for internal security lapses in the Jail; and

(c) whether Jail administration has any proposal to prohibit the use of metallic spoon and forks inside the Jail which are being misused as weapons also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) "Prisons" is a transferred subject under entry 4 of List II of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, under the legislative competence of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi. The Director General (Prisons), Prison Headquarters, Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that six prisoners have been killed in the jail during the last two years. In all these cases, the victims were assaulted by the co-inmates. The DG (Prisons) has informed that necessary steps including strengthening of internal security management, weekly coordination meetings and regular sensitization of prison staff for breaking the nexus of criminal groups are taken up on a regular basis. Further, departmental action against the erring officials found negligent on duty are also initiated.

(c) The DG (Prisons) has reported that no metallic spoons or forks are being used in the Jail.

Criminals shot dead in police encounters

2469. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminals shot dead by police in encounters during the last three years;

(b) in how many cases, the Human Rights Commission had taken cognizance and judicial probe was set up; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the criminals killed in the encounter were involved in several heinous crimes and if so, the specific reasons for protecting the rights of criminals instead of the victims whose families have been ruined by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (b) The National Human Rights Commission does not maintain any separate record of cases where criminals have been shot dead by police in an encounter. However, on the basis of intimation received about death in the course of police action, a statement indicating the number of cases registered during the last three years about killing in encounter is as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Cases
1.	2013-14	137
2.	2014-15	188
3.	2015-16	179

In every case of encounter, the Commission calls for inquest report, post-mortem report, Magisterial enquiry report and Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports for ascertaining foul play if any, apart from making recommendations for monetary relief under section 18 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

(c) The Commission examines cases on merit without being influenced by the criminal record of the deceased and in every case of violation of human rights, it makes recommendation for monetary relief, prosecution or such other suitable action as it may deem fit in cases of death in police encounter. Under the scheme of criminal law prevailing in India, it would not be an offence if the death is caused in exercise of right of private defence. Another provision under which the police officer can justify causing the death of a person, is section 46 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The provision authorizes the police to use reasonable force, even extending up to the causing of death, if found necessary to arrest the person accused of an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life.

Development of Islands in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep

2470. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to develop 26 Islands in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep;