

**Timely justice to Under Trials**

2985. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to help the detainees awaiting trial get timely justice; and

(b) whether Government is considering spelling out a time-frame for the same, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Minister of Law and Justice has written to the Chief Justices of High Courts on 3rd February 2017 requesting for periodic monitoring of release of Under Trials so that every accused person receives a fair trial and does not languish in jail longer than it is absolutely necessary as per law. In compliance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 05.02.2016, Under Trial Review Committees have started functioning at district levels in the country. The Legal Services Authorities have set up legal aid clinics in jails and are providing adequate number of competent panel lawyers and para legal volunteers to assist Under Trial Prisoners and convicts, particularly the poor and indigent. The National Legal Services Authority has recently set up video conferencing facility at State Legal Services Authorities levels for video conferencing between the inmates in jails and their relatives.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared a new Model Prison Manual in 2016 covering all aspects of prisons and copy of the same has been sent to the States/UTs for guidance. The Under Trial Review Committees are looking into all issues raised in this Manual including jail visits as suggested in the Manual.

'Prisons' is a State subject as per entry 4 of the List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the administration and management of prisons is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. Similarly, timely trial for early justice is in the domain of Judiciary. In view of this, no time frame for timely justice to Under Trials can be spelt out.

**Committees for withdrawal of frivolous and ineffective cases**

2986. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments and High Courts have been asked to review pending court cases and set up committees to suggest withdrawal of frivolous and ineffective cases;