

extending up to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for an offence under any law (not being an offence for which the punishment of death has been specified as one of the punishments under that law). The E-prisons portal provides the facility to State Jail authorities to access the data of inmates in a quick and easy mode which can assist them in identifying inmates whose cases are due for consideration by the Under Trial Review Committees and take up their cases appropriately. The Government of India had also introduced the concept of plea bargaining through Section 265-A of Cr.PC, which enables pre-trial negotiation between the defendant and the prosecution during which the defendant agrees to plead guilty in exchange of certain concessions by the prosecutor. This concept aims at reducing the number of undertrials in prisons. The Government has advised the States and UTs to adopt these measures to address the issue of undertrials and overcrowding in prisons. State/UT Governments are competent to take appropriate action in this regard.

Model Prison Manual 2016 circulated to all States and UTs has a chapter on Remission to prisoners, under the provisions of which prisoners can get remission in their sentences. Government has also introduced scheme of special remission to certain categories of prisoners recently under which the States and UTs were advised to grant special remission to them and release them from prisons.

Downgrading the status of Jammu and Kashmir

1041. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what reasons prompted Government for downgrading the Status of Jammu and Kashmir to separate Union Territory;
- (b) whether Government has proposal to give Jammu and Kashmir back the Status of Statehood;
- (c) if so, by when; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (d) Upon passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, in the Parliament on 6th August, 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir

Reorganisation Act, 2019 has been notified on 9th August, 2019. As per the Act, the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir is reorganised into the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir with legislature and Union Territory of Ladakh without legislature.

Officials sent for training courses

1042. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many officials from the Joint Secretary and above rank were sent for some capacity building/training courses abroad during the last three years;

(b) the details of officials sent abroad for training and the institutions where they were sent; and

(c) whether any written reports were sought from these trainee officials in the form of a feedback, if so, what was the overall feedback and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) and (b) Eleven (11) officers of and above level of Joint Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs were sent abroad for training during the last three years. Year-wise details thereof are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Feedback reports are submitted by officers to sponsoring/cadre controlling authorities. These training programmes were productive, fruitful and relevant to areas of work of the officers concerned.

Statement

*Details of officers deputed for foreign training programmes
during last three years*

Sl. No.	Name & designation of the officer	Name of Institutions where they got training
1	2	3
2017		
1.	Shri Prabhas Kumar Jha, Secretary	University of California, United States of America.
2.	Shri T.V.S.N Prasad Additional Secretary	Australia New Zealand School of Government, Sydney, Australia.