

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.86
7.	Puducherry	0.00	259.68	2500.00	0.00	0.00	423.82
TOTAL (C)		0.00	6300	7802.11	2500.00	131.00	608.94
GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)		93300.00	56299.00	53874.11	62121.00	65000.00	608.94

Slow disposal of Judicial cases

†596. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of innocent people are imprisoned due to slow pace of execution of judicial cases in the country and a large number out of them have been jailed for a period exceeding their prescribed punishment/penalty;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to free such people; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) 'Prisons and Prisoners' is a State subject. Therefore, the management of prisons and prisoners is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to address the issue related to undertrial prisoners, the Government of India has taken the following steps:—

- (i) Section 436A has been inserted in the Code of Criminal Procedure, which provides for release of an under-trial prisoner on bail after undergoing detention for a period 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).
- (ii) 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 (UTRCs) and take up their cases appropriately. UTRCs have been established in all the districts. The said committee holds

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

quarterly meetings. UTRCs are headed by the District and Session Judges, who are also the Chairperson of the DLSAs. Secretary, DLSA is also a member of the Committee.

- (iii) On directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) had prepared a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Under-Trial Review Committees. This SOP was circulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs to States and UTs on 18th February, 2019.
- (iv) The Model Prison Manual, 2016 circulated to all States and UTs also has a Chapter on 'Legal Aid' which provides details of the facilities that may be provided to undertrials viz. legal defence, interview with lawyer, signing of Vakalatnama, application to Courts for legal aid at Government cost etc.
- (v) NALSA provides a range of services including providing free legal services, drafting of petitions, preparation of paper books etc. The persons in custody are entitled category of persons under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Legal Services Clinics are also functioning in jails for providing free legal services to the prisoners. Legal services has been provided to 1,75,656 during 2018-19 and to 1,34,083 prisoners during 2019-20 (upto November 2019).

Appointment of Notary Public

597. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Notary Public appointed by the Union Government during the last 5 years, State-wise and year-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether there are adequate number of notaries in proportion to the population of the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of number of Notary Public appointed by the Union Government during the last 5 years from SC and ST communities, State-wise and year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The details of total number of Notary Public appointed by the Union Government during the last 5 years, State and year-wise is given in the Statement (*See below*).