

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to provide funds to the States for providing necessary infrastructure in the jails for video conferencing, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, how will the States arrange for it, especially when they are starved of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) and (b) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has informed that during COVID-19 pandemic, Legal Aid lawyers were deputed by legal services authorities to provide free legal services to jail inmates, through video conferencing, in many States and UTs, such as Kerala, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

(c) and (d) 'Prisons' and 'persons detained therein' are 'State' subjects as per Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. States/UTs are competent to provide necessary infrastructure for video conferencing facilities in jails under their respective jurisdictions.

The Department of Justice is implementing eCourts Mission Mode Project, which is a national e-Governance project for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of the Courts in the country. The Department of Justice has released an amount of ₹ 69.30 crores to all High Courts for providing Video Conferencing facilities between 3240 Court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails under the said Project.

#### **Curbs eased during COVID pandemic**

1168. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of curbs eased during COVID-19 pandemic situation in States;

(b) the implementation status thereof; and

(c) the actual demands of the States pending with Union Government in this regard and by when, it will be addressed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) to (c) In terms of Section 6 (2) (i) of the Disaster

Management Act (DM Act), 2005, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), on being satisfied that the country is threatened by the spread of COVID - 19 pandemic, has been directing National Executive Committee (NEC), to take measures and to issue necessary guidelines so as to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the country. Accordingly, NEC has been issuing guidelines about the Lockdown and Unlock phases from time to time, which are applicable to all States and Union Territories.

NEC, on the advice of NDMA, issued orders and guidelines to extend the lockdown and opening of economic activities in a graded manner, on 15th April, 1st May and 17th May 2020. From 30th May onwards, Order and guidelines on Unlock were issued for phased re-opening of activities outside the containment zones. Orders were issued on 30th May (Unlock-1), 29th June (Unlock-2), 29th July (Unlock-3) and 29th August, 2020 (Unlock-4).

To ensure unrestricted movement of persons and goods, under Unlock-1, it was mandated that there shall be no restriction on inter-State and intrastate movement of persons and goods. No separate permission/ approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements. Further, under Unlock-4 order, it has been mandated that State/ UT Governments shall not impose any local lockdown, outside the containment zones, without prior consultation with the Central Government.

When restrictions imposed by any State/Union Territories Government in movement of passengers and goods have been reported, this Ministry has immediately directed the concerned State/Union Territory not to impose such restrictions on inter-State and intra State movement of persons, goods and services.

Request of some State Governments were received in the Ministry of Home Affairs for imposing local lockdown in the State concerned. The matter was considered in the Ministry and was not been agreed to.

#### **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**

1169. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation, including funds approved, sanctioned, released and expenditure of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Section-wise;