

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1816**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th MARCH, 2021/ 19 PHALGUNA, 1942 (SAKA)
FACILITIES TO WOMEN IN PRISONS AND DETENTION CENTRES**

1816. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is cognizant of the problems being faced by women, transgenders and children in prisons and detention centres due to the Covid-19 pandemic;**
- (b) if so, what steps Government has taken to address these concerns of women and children in these settings;**
- (c) whether Government has developed any particular schemes or given any particular support to these above mentioned groups during the Covid-19 pandemic; and**
- (d) the total number of women, transgenders and children released from prisons and detention centres during the covid-19 pandemic?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): 'Prisons' and 'persons detained therein' are State subjects as per Entry 4 of List II of Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Administration of prisons and management of inmates is primarily the responsibility of respective State Governments, who had adopted suitable measures in their jurisdictions to address the issues relating to Covid-19 in prisons. The State Governments are competent to devise and implement suitable schemes for providing support to prison inmates, including women prisoners and their children and transgenders etc. arising out of the Covid-19 situation.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories (UTs) on 12th March, 2020 advising them to take appropriate precautionary steps, such as washing hands, covering face and social distancing etc. in prisons to curb the spread of Covid-19 in prisons. States and UTs were also advised to reduce movement of prison inmates and to make use of video conference facilities for their production in Court. They were also advised to engage with their Health Departments for arranging thermal screening devices and arrange meeting of inmates with their visitors through video conferencing facility and e-mulakat to avoid physical contact. This was followed by another detailed advisory dated 2.5.2020 sent to all States and UTs advising them to follow the National guidelines and protocols like 'Guidelines on disinfection of common public places' and 'Guidelines on rational use of Personal Protective Equipment' issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the safe custody of inmates, medical care and transport of inmates prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs in coordination with the Bureau of Police Research & Development was also shared with States and UTs, who were advised to make use of these guidelines and SOPs for effective containment of the pandemic and for the safety of inmates.

(d): This data has not been reported to National Crime Records Bureau by the States and UTs.
